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Proof that the  
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P.50

# MACLEAN'S

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By regarding reporters and editors as costs rather than assets, ComWest MediaWorlds is reaping greater mistakes and following a recipe for slow death.

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Through a rare genetic defect, some people feel no pain below their knees and elbows. One relative in Quebec is known to be an especially high number of victims.

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Speed skating has brought more than half of Canada's recent Winter Olympic wins. Our best hope for multiple medals is Torvill. Cindy Klassen.

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The International Olympic Committee is preparing a much cleaner Games this time around. But cross-country skier Bode Miller, Canada's poster girl for play fast, isn't necessarily convinced of that.





**'I am in complete agreement that the voting age should be raised. I live with a 19-year-old who has no sense of political responsibility. Having met his friends, I sense he represents the norm.'**

gave a good overview of what's going on in Canada, and I loved the world, but as we proved vocabulary ("I admit, honestly, I have to look up a word for identification"). But I have no wonder, after reading a few hours of my interview with Robert Bragman ("Urban barbarian," Mail bag, Jan. 30), my vocabulary spans no range. The author of the little begins, "Robert Bragman's aptitude for urban appeal was as bewildering as its gallorous inaudience is perfunctory." What? Created, it was a little tend when I read this, and there was a lot of background noise too. To me, Macleish is as Canadian as the CBC, or Hockey Night in Canada, and I will assume trend inquiries everywhere. Here, though, decided that when I come to a sentence like this, I will have to think twice about whether or not it words are "obnoxious" wifey. Keep up the good work. *Brins (Gibson), North Vancouver, B.C.*

Canadian writers are, generally, being born buried by politics. Full stops pronouncing as a preprint of tax cuts and more spending. Mindfully, a reader named Carvel Atkinson ("Tax can and good," Mail bag, Jan. 30) reminded us to do the math. Our as-cumulated net debt pecuniarily stands at some \$350 billion, the amount that must in these cuts come to some \$15 billion. The one prior reduction in the GST rate mentioned by Atkinson would put us \$4 billion closer to a deficit (two points, \$5 billion), an increase in interest rates would put us an other \$5 billion closer to deficit. As it stands, the wobbs should be hoping a quicky here due, whatever form our new government, they will manage as most, if not all, of these pre-election promises. *D.T. Raffi, Peterborough, Ont.*

### The maple leaf forever

The flag of Canada with a red maple leaf is known and held in respect throughout the world. For Macleish's response (maple leaf falling, and in the colour grey, while using it as a pun on a postage on its logo and as a marker on editorial pages [Jan. 30]), is disrespectful and unacceptable. *Steve Raine, New Hamburg, Ont.*

### Boomtown north

Another great article from Paul Wells ("Upon Fieri Molito," Maclean's, Jan. 30) was of particular interest to me: my young family just moved from Victoria to Fort McMurray

Canada's famous growing city has received a lot of mixed press lately. However, what we have found is a vibrant and surprisingly cosmopolitan and diverse community. It's a city with a strong and caring corporate community, a city with wonderful and welcoming people who care about their families and their work (although I must admit it's a bit surreal living on a plain with zero unemployment). *Concurrent MP Brian Jean* is right there is no more important spot for the future of Canada's economy. My observations

tell students to make sure their informed sources are credible and reliable. Let's hope they raised this article. *Anne Ross, Lethbridge, Que.*

### Spilled milk

I am a dairy farmer who lives in Elmwood, Ont., and knows Chris Brins, the farmer who has decided to sell milk directly into the U.S. market ("The milk of human kindness," Jan. 30). I think it would be fair to the Dairy Farmers of Ontario if you would consider



**FARMER AGAINST FARMER:** Chris Brins's claim should be investigated further, a reader says of what is driving people here: the fact that they are making a difference for themselves, and the whole country. This is why people here (legitimately) feel that they are going more than they are getting from government. Improved infrastructure and retaining the road to Edmonton are not just important for people here in northern Alberta, they're important for all of Canada.

*David Entwistle, Fort McMurray, Alta.*

### Mutant genes

You wrote about the gene mutation for pale skin being "unusually" ("Shades of pale," Desbury, 7 Jan. 96). As a biology professor at Thompson College, I did a Google search to point out a mistake that appeared in the story that I often have to correct in my students' work. Genes do not carry any mutations. The sequence of nucleotides (that make up DNA) in genes are the sequence of amino acids in proteins that are assembled outside the nucleus according to genetic instructions. Yet, always

right there's a dozen of legal battles further

than the one you mentioned.

I know producers who began with the Gene Guy McGehee, and who sold their quota for between \$10,000 and \$10,000 per cow—certified dappled-brown to black. They quickly found out how valuable the cattle was. Yes, you could ask them to show you the books to see for yourself, or even take one of the shoppers who has got, about the same, price. Shortly they have had a bargaining because there is not enough return for the hogged out. If dappled talk to the United States is no problem, then why has this cow not expanded his operation to milk more cows? And why is he growing vegetables to sell in instead of growing feed for his herd? In Britain, the government deregulated the dairy in dairy country. The price to the producer has dropped, yet consumers are paying more for the product. You could look into that. Take a trip in the northeast U.S. and compare the prices of the dairy and egg products in the supermarkets to that of our own and then see

what is paid to their producer. You will see what I mean about a fairer return to the farmer. Is your industry not also protected from the mega-competition?

*Doug Kitchie, Elmwood, Ont.*



**'It's sad that men in their 20s love video games so much they are willing to lose their families over their addiction. However, it doesn't seem like women are taking charge to stop their partners' behaviour.'**

violent, in Toron to on a combination of law regulation, cross border smuggling, a weak justice system and society's failure to codify the consequences when they were young. *Larry Cormier,宾顿*

are so wonderful, so much better than me, please show us the way. On the other hand, Brancat response were so ignorant and naive, which ruined the article. *Nicole Rovin, Ottawa*

### Pull the plug on video games

I greatly enjoyed your article about children video games ("Video game widow," Home, Jan. 16). Being a hard-core gamer myself, I often see friends destroy relationships over video games. However, I was disappointed with some recent facts you wrote. While Everquest is indeed a major player online role-playing game, it has at a first-person action game that does, in fact, have an end, and does not encourage overhauls 12 hours sessions at any time. It's more geared toward class or free-for-all. Diablo, while a role-playing game, is not an MMORPG. It was also discontinued with the exception of the *Diablo II*, which launched *World of Warcraft* last November, apparently in fault for encouraging marathon sessions, the blame has to be placed mainly on the people who allow themselves to be come addicted to them out of game (although the "widow" refers to blame someone other than the man they love is understandable). The women who have these men need to set themselves the deadline before they marry them. After all, no one is too marry someone if he promised he'd quit after the marriage? *Willie Raine, Kitchener, Ont.*



**HALF TO THE CHIEF:** A reader sends William Branson congratulations for his conquest

Canadian supply managed policy and dairy farmers are absolutely better off than their U.S. counterparts, while Canadian grain and oilseed farmers are absolutely worse off than their U.S. counterparts. This is the topic in entirety because the Canadian government continues to support supply-managed farmers, while effectively ignoring the plight of grain and oilseed farmers. This has pitted farmer against farmer, and it can, and will, only get worse. Things are not well out here on the rural routes. *Stephen Thompson, Clinton, Ont.*

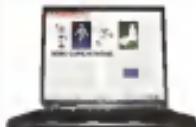
### Tough on crime

Linda Branson did an excellent job in her interview with William Branson, chief of the LAPD [Jan. 30]. Congratulations to Branson for having the courage to tell the likes of Toronto's appalling surge in violence at the feet of the Jamaican gangs and finding it in their strengths to arrest the Toronto drug trade. Anyone who is familiar with the fact that Kingston, Jamaica averages 3,000 deaths annually should not be surprised at Branson's views, considering Jamaica one of the largest populations of Jamaicans outside that country. We Canadians should be asking our politicians at all levels why it took an American police chief to come to such a conclusion. All three levels of government in Ontario have continually tried to blame the

police and said that most in their 20s-30s violent as much they are willing to lose their families over their addiction. I believe this addiction is a symptom of the problem; they are education on their own personal lives themselves. However, from reading your article, it doesn't seem like the women who love them are taking charge to stop their partner's self-destructive behaviour. The photograph you use shows this self-defeating attitude. The women in the picture is sitting behind her husband who is just passively watching her play video games. When I ask, will she actually get up off the couch and say something to help him? Perhaps these women are too scared to approach their partners directly and instead feel safer sharing their findings to strangers on the Internet. I just want to co-construct a just too-soft solution. Nevertheless, police and women must pass through their initial fear and communicate with their partners. *Diane Lonsdale, Hamilton*

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# It's the Charter, stupid

Why is our constitutional debate so unhinged from reality?



ANDREW POTTER

The Canadian Constitution is broken. Well, the way we talk about it is in the unenclosed by the plain English Harry Franks in his bestselling pamphlet, *Confounding Our Constitution*, what distinguishes a bad constitution from a good one is how little the bad one needs to mend, the better one is not even in the same ballgame. But the problem is really, really disconnected from reality. Advertising takes place in this realm. So, apparently, does Canada's constitutional conversation.

Franks is the upstart of Paul Martin's mid-electoral debate pledge, apparently drawn up on the spur of the moment. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms is present Ottawa from ever using the notwithstanding clause. Franks quickly checked up on whether the government had indeed nuclearise the constitutional power to do so, but the real problem is the extent to which the Canadian Constitution now looks more than a jumble of the braindead approach to representative and popular politics.

If the Americans can sort out once and for all their constitutional reverie, we appear to have decided to treat our Constitution as one would a pernicious medical affliction: we either prefer to ignore it, or we turn it into a big hairy scratching match. The scratchy bits are a reflection of implying written in the document that it disappears once just what we were the Constitution on the

Academics tell us that constitutions come in two types: a preservation constitution, one that is based on a political community of a certain type, with its historical practices and institutions; Britain's common constitution, with relatively松散的 the common law, the classic example. By contrast, the transformative model represents a country's ideal and image of itself, presenting a set of principles against which any law and administration is to be judged. The South African constitution, for instance, was explicitly designed as a transformative document that would displace all traces of the country's apartheid past.

Our constitutional order is on my side of the two. Aside from a few minor areas brought in by the federal government, the original 1867 Act was written in an almost entirely prescriptive key. Its endorsement-by-parliamentary-governance (Parliament's supremacy, the sovereignty of the Crown—were seen as sufficient guarantee that Canadians would continue to enjoy what used to be called the rights of Englishmen

Then, in 1975, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms introduced a really terrible compromise to the issue. Most of the big ideological debates over the past quarter century—from judicial activism and its notwithstanding clause to gay marriage and abortion law—are the vibrating effects of this shift. Canada is now a country divided not only in the political or constitutional level, but also the issue can resonated level. We can't even agree on the level of constitutional theory we would hypothetically accept upon. Is it the Charter, stupid? Is it the stupid Charter?

It's not over, though. We're rethinks the Constitution in light over us. Jim Flaherty took the first approach, in reaction to the crackpot theories of the Maloufarians. That seemed to work okay, so now the conventional wisdom is that any politicians who dare to suggest "opening the Constitution" is either blind or deluded, but in any case ought to do the country a favour and take a well-thought-the review myself.

### We treat our Constitution as one would a marital infidelity: we either pointedly ignore it or turn it into a screaming match

The privileges and limitations of constitutional power, but comes at the price of introducing a rather large gap between what the Constitution says and how it actually operates. We're told that the death of the Meech Lake accord preserved Britain's traditional the crown, and royal prerogative and a strong central government. Yet Paul Martin reduced his 1993 budget health deal with the provinces as a form of compromised federalism, quickly backtracking a hour or so later in a "sort of a Meech" agreement. On the hill back to "federal federalism," a term that had the virtue of presenting several useful educational features

Again, one might suspect that this program is a goodly portion of what's causing within the federation with one putting to through the trouble and strife of constitutional negotiations. But, judging by the hostile reaction to Martin's notwithstanding measures, the people aren't buying it. We seem to have reached a stage where the Constitution has that preserving role of constitutionalism, but largely alone. Or maybe they're not quite the right word. Political practice, popular opinion and what the Constitution actually says can only diverge so much before an act of constitutionalism, an act that smells distinctly of the farce. ■

MACLEAN'S  
ROGERS



### GOOD NEWS

#### A warm, fuzzy border

India and Pakistan are taking their way in an ongoing peace. A summit between the nuclear powers began with an official statement of gratitude for India's new Paksistan earthquake relief mission October, and ended with an agreement to develop a range measures to ease border tensions. The neighbors still have deep differences, particularly with regard to the disputed Kashmir region. But three years ago, nuclear confrontation was actually very close. Both sides have been turned into greater co-operation under U.S.-led war on terror, and exchanges have been intensifying since peace talks started in 1989.

#### Schooling the U.S.

The French New Orleans Committee has tabled its strategy for rebuilding the city's shattered school system. It calls for devolution of power from department to individual schools to end racial principals, allowing the district greater freedom to choose which school to attend. New Orleans based its plan substantially on lessons learned from the school system in Oakland, Calif. Educated French residents will know Oakland's school system largely on a model promoted by Education's public schools

#### 'Vecchio's' & dangerous

Two weeks ago, less than a week after the nuclear program in violation of an agreement with France, Germany and Britain. Last week, it proposed a recompense of \$100 million to the European Union as an apparent bid to end a continuing with the UN Security Council. The European was having none of it. The proposal was dismissed by Britain as "naive," and Germany as "unacceptable"—"a lot of wet words without any concrete." The U.S. and Europe

the continued to press Russia and China for a more vigorous response to Iran's belligerent

#### Safe sex workers

The British government is planning to decriminalize sex work "worker sex" brothels to provide prostitutes with health and environmental protection. The sex legislation would allow three workers, including a receptionist at



JENTER AND BOYD: The New Horizons spacecraft, bound for Pluto

public schools, including would be born off-piste judges. Since, Clarkson backed down a bit. Now her manager says the singer will allow certain songs to be used "consent-by-case" basis.

#### Everybody panic!

The Tokyo Stock Exchange has provided the world with an important lesson in how not to deal with a market panic. The trouble started when authorities announced a fraud investigation into a popular Internet company, prompting a run of feverish selling. Trading got so bad that officials in the exchange called a press conference to say they were struggling with the volume of trading and asked traders to calm down and play the system. Naturally, this heightened the panic, accelerating the sell-off. The exchange was forced to shut down 20 minutes early

### BAD NEWS

#### American Diva

Kelly Clarkson pretty much owns her career as American Idol. As the first winner of the runaway reality show, Clarkson has carved out an enviable career in the music biz. So, foray into the movie world, she's understandably rallied to discuss last week that Clarkson was not allowing new compositions to enter her songs on the show. After some many

#### Earth to Ray

When New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin went on the radio last September to lambaste the U.S. government for inaction, it was to flag the city. His city was sinking. But then, in October, he argued Hurricane groups by job and angle to make sure that New Orleans is not even by Mori can workers, a reference to the laborers who were helping to build the city. On Martin Luther King Day, he spoke again in a speech, he argued that the last names of the U.S. last year were a sign that God is angry at America and black communities for their violent tendencies. He demanded an unapologetic compensation that it had with King, during his life, stated. "Why do our young men have such indifference that they look so broad and the God and they will take a gun and kill him in cold blood?" Nagin, Nagin, was, "We are a people need to fix our selves first." Ungrateful, Mr. Mayor

#### Buzz off (II)

Few, if any, Canadian would have ditched his or her traditional elected party, the New Democratic Party, in favour of the front running Liberal—never mind that the NDP was poised to make massive electoral and seats gains since at least the broadsheet era. Harper then claimed the RCMP for revealing the campaign financing and investigation of the Liberal budget leak, as it came back on the right. He then levied no right against him. He then levied no right against him. At Stephen Harper and—get this—angry Canadians to vote for any party, including the avowedly separatist Bloc Québécois, in order to stop the Conservative leadership from gaining power. How long before a GWB-wannabe gets to vote on BC? ■



## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF DAVID OLIVER

The drowsy Liberal candidate in B.C.'s Abbotsford riding spent Saturday, Jan. 14, answering media inquiries about his NDP's proposal of allegations that David Oliver tried to lobate him. On Sunday, Oliver said, "I had cleaned the house in my 15s, watched TV and napped a lot." At a meeting with his staff on Monday, he declared he would continue to campaign as an independent. He attended an all-candidates meet-and-greet at a local university, although "not a lot of people were there."

## DISCOVERY

### Revenge: a guy thing

Males are more likely to find vengeance satisfying than females. Scientists have examined the brain activity of males and females watching pain being apparently inflicted on someone they liked



**ELABORATE** India to keep mucus and chilled, and found that males appeared to enjoy seeing pain inflicted on foes. Women found enjoyment for both kinds and for

### Tuned to you

Imagine until this judges your emotions, moods and history of music choices, then programs music for you accordingly. The University of Maryland has been researching the feasibility of such a device, which would measure emotional variables, then predict the genre of music that would probably be desired.

### Smelling ready

The editor in the female perfume is older than women are at their first period, making them more attracted to men, says a report in *Psychology Journal*. Based on a study of 12 women who wore perfume pads 24 hours a day, the study found that when women are not ready for pregnancy the odour gives less attraction.

### Future of metal

Yale University researchers have gathered unrepresented-destination, car, recycling and disposal theories, drawing a picture of the future limit of metals for

the consumption of humanity. Everywhere in the world were to consume the same amount in North America, about 170 kg per person, would be impossible to supply the Earth's estimated 6 billion people by 2100. The same holds true for plateaued and sustainable

### Service needed

A shortage of pollinators is threatening the survival of many plant species, an international study involving the University of Calgary has found. Increasing human activity has reduced the habitat for pollinators such as bees and birds, putting approximately 75 per cent of the world's flowering plants under or in preclusive stress.

### WILD KINGDOM

#### Giant cocktails

How wild will it get? Mongolian Cell calls for the existing Moscow Rose Concierge groupie slaythounds of vodka to keep them warm during a week-long engagement. Temperatures have dropped to -38 C. And how much vodka would you need in a slushy's shot? At least two litres a day.

#### From reveal to pair

Zookeepers in Tokyo gave a human size to Asurin, a rat snake, by putting the poison-laden serpent in a rat suit. Another kind of love emerged: the snake didn't eat her kind of adoptive rat. The rat now shows a cage and sometimes the snake even sleeps on top of the snake. Zookeepers nicknamed the older Gohsa, which means "rat." "Asurin seems to enjoy Gohsa's company," said Kenya Yamamoto, a zoo employee.

#### City beer healthier

It seems counterintuitive, but beer made in cities is actually healthier and up to five times more productive than beer made in the countryside. There reasons may be high-temperature inves-

ts in exposure to agricultural pesticides, and more plentiful and varied flowering plants. And, said a French scientist, "the bees go out more."

### Stamped hamster

David Jordan and James Cole decided to wreak vengeance on a rat, which had destroyed Jordan's, so they acquired a similar hamster through the mail. In fact, the two Cambridge University students admired abandoning the rodent to its fate as likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

The pair were fined and banned from entering research for two years. The hamster was interrogated as a key witness before it was subject to mechanical tormenting equipment.

### MORTALITY

#### Bad apples?

Asked to determine whether AIDS patients can take benefit from their immune system, stopped last week, when the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases found that people are much more likely to grow seriously ill if they do.

#### Safe deaths

There is rising evidence of just how infant death syndrome is inconsistent where a parent sleeps with their child on a sofa.

**ASIAN AND GORILLA** Snake and its hatch have become good buddies



on the wrist several times a day with a tiny needle and test blood for the presence of parasites that carry malaria. If it detects more than 10 parasites in a sample, it rings an alarm, providing early warning of the presence of a disease that kills one million annually and makes millions more sick.

### A pill for trauma

Scientists believe that during бои events, the human brain produces extra hormones that store memories of the terrible event to become as concerned that they become obsessions. This causes post-traumatic stress syndrome, and researchers are proposing a drug that will suppress the memories while they sink. A beta-blocker drug called propranolol, which has been found to treat stage fright, may show promise.

### Steady treatment

A clinical trial to determine whether AIDS patients can take benefit from their immune system was abruptly stopped last week, when the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases found that people are much more likely to grow seriously ill if they do.

### Safe deaths

There is rising evidence of just how infant death syndrome is inconsistent where a parent sleeps with their child on a sofa.

**ASIAN AND GORILLA** Snake and its hatch have become good buddies

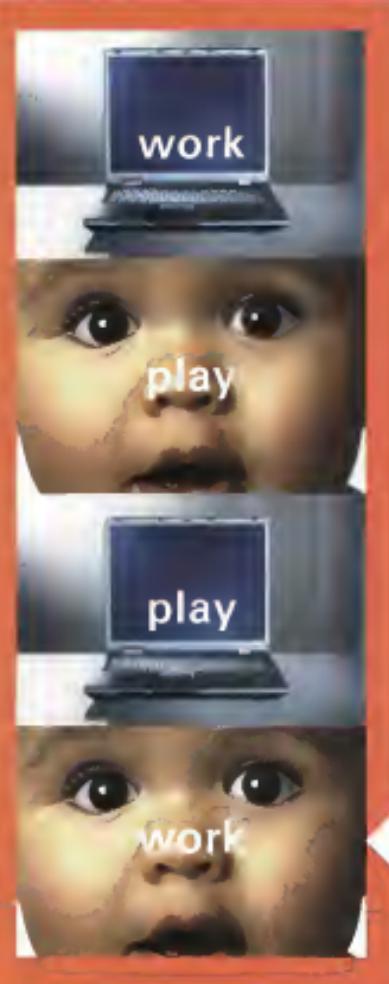


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## He wants to die. 'I think that smart people in the U.S. get that martyring bin Laden would not be in the interest of the civilized world.'

PETER BERGEN TALKS TO LINDA FRUM

Five years after 9/11, Osama bin Laden remains as large—beyond the reach of justice, and under a moral compression. Last week, he released his first audiotaped communication in over a year, confirming that he is alive and somber as an actor leader of al-Qaeda. Peter Bergen is CNN's terrorism analyst, and the author of the new book *The Osama bin Laden I Know: Bergen's Intimate Interview with Osama bin Laden* (2007) and this fall's *Osama: The Most Wanted Man*. Bergen's interview with Linda Frum is from 2007, and this fall's book follows his actions closely since.

What is the most significant thing about the way you approached your part of this?

Well, the most obvious earnings in that Osama bin Laden is alive and well, which is something I personally believed anyway because that was my new theory that he was dead. There was a lot of all-enforced speculation that he was dead because he'd been killed from him a year ago. But of course there was a precedent for that. He came out at the time of his choosing.

The tape was made earlier this month. Why did he choose to do it now?

It's kind of two reasons. One is that al-Qaeda took a terrible hit [9/11] when it was in the Pakistani village. When it was hit, there were "top-to-bottom" al-Qaeda people. Some of this tape was recorded out of how Osama was still in charge. Another explanation could be that the tape itself—the making of it—led to the intelligence about [bin Laden's] second in command [Ayman al-Zawahiri] whereabouts.

And that in turn led to the assault. So you're saying it was the tape that caused the attack rather than that the tape was released in response to the attack?

That would be another interpretation. But the most likely interpretation is that al-Qaeda's propaganda arm pushed out the tape because they want to say that their enemies still live. Obviously, I don't think they are.

In your book you say that, judging by the way bin Laden looks in the 2004 U.S. election video—redhead, he's clean, well put up to date on current events—he probably had not been living under a curse at all that time.

His 2004 video image was a Hallmark portrait of an Oval Office adviser. He's behind a desk. He's well set. He's well-dressed. His clothes have been to the dry-cleaner's—he doesn't look like he's living in a cave. And the same thing is true of Ayman al-Zawahiri's tape. He's got a new look; his robes have been freshly pressed. So neither of them is living in some hole in the ground.

However, the later communication is a very crude videotape. Does that suggest something else changed?

Maybe the video production arm got interested in the attack. Maybe they went in to劫持 something about their situation. A videotape does have more clout. Even if you got a normal broad tape up—it could be easier than a 2004 videotape that bin Laden was living in some fairly pleasant circumstances.

So you feel that they're being clever? They are at

least in how they're going to frame their story? In fact? Blowing up an airplane from their hideout they like to do—Larry King Live?

I don't think they are living in some five-star hotel in Switzerland. But if you analyze the context of bin Laden's statements—and also al-Zawahiri's—these guys are now rank-and-file individuals.

That indicates some leniency.

May we presume bin Laden will be supported—let's say he doesn't believe in our cause—would he be in the West's best interests, do you think?

Absolutely not. The best thing we could do is capture him and do the whole Saldanha [hanging terrorist capture] catch. Catch him for his head and publicly humiliate him.

Punctuate his mystic person. On the other hand, the likelihood of that happening is pretty low. For two reasons. First of all, he genuinely does want to die in this struggle. Plus, I think if the Americans did have information about his whereabouts, particularly if he was in Pakistan, which is likely, I don't think they would gain any credit here. I think they would send a whole series of predators in to get him.

So they'd support you now that it is very important that he become a martyr? Or is it that you need to capture him?

I think it's the latter. I think that smart people in the U.S. government get that martyring bin Laden would not be in the interest of the United States, or indeed of Canada and the rest of the civilized world's interest. The best outcome would be if bin Laden just

ended into obscurity. At the moment, he continues to have ideological influence on the jihad movement. That would be a security problem. He's probably surrounded by scores of bodyguards who treat him as a religious figure and whose all motivated by cash rewards. He can't be put every Monday and Thursday to a mosque—Tim can't do that.

In the tape, bin Laden addresses the American people directly, but he's rather deflated about how far they've gone over with them. Why doesn't he understand just that Americans don't respond well to threats?

Clearly his appeal to the American people—he did that before the American press started screaming—is a rather naive approach. I think bin Laden is a naive person. He certainly has made some misjudgments about the United States in the past—but America is a paper tiger, and if you threaten them, they'll never and fold their cards.

Clearly he's taking great pleasure in the tape saying the most Americans want a withdrawal from Iraq.

But this tape could change that. bin Laden's endorsement of withdrawal is probably the best reason the American public isn't reverent in the fight.

I agree completely. The last thing you want is bin Laden as a spokesman for any patriotic point of view.

One of the things that I learned from your book is that it's actually in your health. There's no legacy disease, for example.

No, that's all nonsense. He's got no life-threatening conditions.

However, a number of people in your book comment on how much water and food he drinks. Mr. Cheney I've heard that he may have Marfan syndrome, which apparently affected President Lincoln.

It's a degenerative disease that will eventually kill you. Ben Laden and Lincoln have similar body type. They're tall and slender. Bin Laden is also thin and slender, amazingly. So that may be true. What he's not really has is low blood pressure. And he was wounded in the foot during the Soviet war. When Soviet took him in 1989, he walked with a cane. And he was wounded in the battle of Tora Bora. One of the things I hope the reader takes away from the book is the notion that bin Laden was not at his best. This was flouted by the Bush administration—and by George W. Bush—who was running the battle of Tora Bora from Florida. We lost bin Laden surrounded at Tora Bora. Well, we should have had him on our roundup—but we didn't. There were some American journalists at Tora Bora from American soldiers, so that was a lost opportunity.

What does bin Laden do all day?

I think he's paying attention to current events. He plays seven times a day. I don't

think he has his immediate family with him because that would be a security problem. He's probably surrounded by scores of bodyguards who treat him as a religious figure and whose all motivated by cash rewards. He can't be put every Monday and Thursday to a mosque—Tim can't do that.

One person in the book describes sharing a food dinner with him. Ronald E. Rasmussen, friend, friend in mind.

What's interesting about all of that is that bin Laden had been preparing for this on the run for a very long time. Years ago when he was living in Sudan [1992-1996], and when he had millions of dollars in the bank, he didn't have or consider using it, despite the fact he has no friends and he wouldn't even drink cold water because it was a luxury. In a sense, his life hasn't changed a huge amount in terms of his ascetic lifestyle.

One interesting detail from your book is the often-quoted statement of his wealth at \$200 million is probably wrong.

It's wrong. Let's look at the math. Osama's fortune is estimated at probably the best reason the American public isn't reverent in the fight.

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decided they would do "martyrdom as polygamy" and here—they would only do the four wives. It's not that Osama did many things because one of the wives left him when he gave her the opportunity in Sudan. He told his wives that "We're going to be tough and if you want to leave now, then, then." So that's the wife left on sensible terms. The surprising thing is that the wives have generally been highly educated.

After spending all this time talking about bin Laden and his wife, what are your own feelings about him? He's obviously a religious fanatic—but would you say he's psychotic?

I'm puzzled still. It's hard to explain why bin Laden is doing what he is doing. But the best explanation I heard came from Jamal



'He got a jet he wanted down to such a low price that on delivery it turned out it could barely fly'

Khalifa. He said that bin Laden believes that if the closer it is to the target he's closer, he will be punished by God. And I thought that was an explanation that made sense. It's clearly not psychotic by any standard definition.

What are the odds of the U.S. military ever finding him?

Well, he is a human being and human beings make mistakes. And by the law of averages, he'll make a mistake one day and the we'll find him. He's only 48 right now—probably he'll be living his life to live. I think he's unlikely he'll die of natural causes. He could be found tomorrow—it could be 14 years from now. You just don't know it.



# The Mounties give up

The RCMP is walking away from serious investigations, and failing to snag fraudsters, drug traffickers and white collar criminals

BY CHARLIE GILLIS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY REIN LEIRYNE

On the day off in graduation from the RCMP, Const. Bill McLean and "High Rivers" learned to laze. Const. Scott Johnson, 27, learned to savor his career as law enforcement. From here at the Mounties' training academy in Regina, he's off to Guelph, Ont., a quiet prairie town where he can leave the ropes of day-to-day policing. Then, with a few years under his belt, the native of Campbellford, Ont., plans to return to his home province, where nine RCMP units can array of their operations against the country's most elusive villains: narco, environmental, white collar criminals. To Johnson, these complex, high-stakes investigations are the stuff that sets the RCMP apart from other police services—"that something," as he puts it, "that drew me to the Mounties."

Sweating it out at Depot, the training facility here is known, as a rule for such bla-

dy operations—a moment for grad to flounce in with pride on joining the world's most iconic police force. But reality quickly intrudes. Not only have Johnson and 27 fellow grad students received postings across the country, thus the federal auditor general's release a report revealing that many of those positions have not yet actually gone filled. Newly released numbers show the Mounties have fallen some 60 officers, or 21 per cent below normal strength in federal enforcement units like drugtrafficking and organized crime.

The performance shows it. On day of offenders, for example, clearance rates have fallen from nearly 80 per cent in 1991 to 61 per cent in 2004, according to numbers obtained from Statistics Canada (clearance rates are the proportion of incidents effectively solved through charges or other forms of resolution); they're a key measure of a police force's

base in British Columbia, "I think there would be a scandal."

But this is the dilemma at the heart of the RCMP's corresponding crisis: It's a force that's used for a while, well-staffed federal police agency while simultaneously purloining the heart of The Big Man, or, as it's known, B.C.'s Mounties trying to do two things at once, as they do along neither well.

The most recent of the more timely is high stakes crime reduction in place at the core of the national conservation. Police stations in both Ottawa and Queen's Park have been driven into market as enforcement investigations over the past year, while the Coroners' query ushered a renege of political speech from the front line, the public with apparent impunity. Last fall, then-Crown's attorney David Dodge warned in a speech to RCMP brass that Canada risks becoming "a safe haven for appearance criminals who deal in white collar crime." These are matters the Mounties are specifically instructed to handle. Dodge for one is urging them to get busy.

Paul Palumbo, who has written two influential books on the RCMP, calls the argument one step further. The Mounties, he says, have been failing behind environmental and white collar enforcement in the mid-1990s, and the single, galvanizing event since then—the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001—have failed to generate any wholesale commitment, he says. "Nothing has changed." The RCMP's while point has been to maintain the status quo. "In the meantime, he notes, the Mounties have been defined by a well-publicized series of rescues and investigations, failures evident reinforcing perceptions of clout.

The acquisition of the Air India bombing,

the drug smuggling allegations surrounding Maher Arar's deportation to Syria, the flat-

law investigation of Brian Mulroney and the Airbus corruption—all have solidified the perception the Mounties' ability to handle big-time international cases.

On the prairie side, the final showing in November of a ranger at B.C. forest

BACKGROUNDS: If we don't make this profession attractive, they'll go somewhere else'

and the elaborate list of names of an officer wearing his body cammera in Lake Okanagan give rise to accusations of gone-to-meeting or disappearance. So far, all the details of four officers near Maplethorpe, Alta., in the hands of a well-known media outlet. So even in all the major publics of prime time fall up to promote money and careers on the 77,000-member force, the resulting investigations are the Mounties up to the job?

**T**HE RCMP takes these perceptions seriously—enough to fire a senior officer. From Guelph to Regina to St. John's to show a response that's doing a good job and meet the myriad demands for its services. Gaudry and his spokewoman, Insp. Glen Sturgeon, in the lead of St. John's figure the RCMP has pursued publicly since its inception 132 years ago, and that still suggests many Canadians still revere. As Depo's most senior officer in Guelph, Sturgeon unfailingly passes to salute. When called in to sit down with his officers' insignia, he stands there for that display.

These qualities, along with his basic attitude, make Gaudry the perfect officer to head the RCMP's increasing "strategic initiative," the slogan the force has ever come to emotionally-motivated recruiting campaign. In each of the next two years, the organization hopes to recruit some 1,700 plus new officers, fully 40 per cent more than its 2005 output. On one level, the response reflects the country's government agency bias due to retiring babs' bonuses. According to the auditor general, incentives across the RCMP could reach \$300 by 2010. "I think we'll be foolish to look at the future, at the demographic trends, and not prepare somehow," says Sturgeon. It's also a way to show they're taking on bigger, more challenging investigations, like the探案的 Mounties' ability to handle big-time international cases.

On the prairie side, the final showing in November of a ranger at B.C. forest

BACKGROUNDS: If we don't make this profession attractive, they'll go somewhere else'

cent fewer applications from Ontario and Quebec than the previous year [Ontario says that number has rebounded], and the long-term trend is not improving. What's more, people typically won't join the RCMP entry exam each year in the mid-10s, but numbers fall to an all-time low in about 10 years, for about 1,000 positions. That's still plenty of recruits from, but not as good as usual, slightly less of confidence. There's the problem of keeping the pool pure. "For many of those who joined in the



past, it was the only choice they had, and they tended to stay," says RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Giordano in an interview. "In today's society, many men and women have different opinions, different alternatives. So if we don't make this profession attractive to them, they'll go somewhere else."

So while Sturgeon denies the force is in crisis, while his resources are nevertheless pinched up their ranks, sharing the job security, 35 per cent more class and relatively generous pay that historically downed a sort of "lifeproof" in the RCMP. In some cases, they've adopted a curiously down our mass message. In Manitoba, for example, the organization commissions advertising spots on radio stations and on campus newspapers emphasizing that applicants don't need an average degree or the ability to speak French to join up. Sturgeon dismisses suggestions the force is downing its recruitment targets. "I have one of these qualifications," he says, smiling. "I think I'm down there."

**I** have a long-time friend, Mounties need to be held, and the character of the force is really about doing more in less, the next, obvious question is: where are they going to put these people? That's where the difficulties really begin. The 20-year agreement under which the force currently supplies policing services to cities, towns and rural communities across the country expires in 2012, with a general review due to begin next year. The Mounties are almost certain to face pressure to bring up their presence in those places where they provide community policing. Numbers talk first. Nowhere by the Conservatives in the House of Commons show



a net shortage of 158 officers in promotional and managerial contracts. And in the force's recent "declassification" surveys, measured poorly on the issue of effective deployment of its members, "if the RCMP can't supply the bodies for their contracts, they're going to lose them," says Ronald Stoeckli, head of the joint studies program at the University of Guelph. "The more police will grow and create their own police agencies."

More than 800 of the 1,200 officers in the service, who sit the walking exams already putting public safety at risk. One notable position on B.C.'s Lower Mainland says he would be worth an additional 10 calls on an average Friday or Saturday night, each of which requires him to write up an investigating file.



GUNFIGHTS may never leave small towns. But the enforcement rates 2.5 percent underutilized.

"Of those, you might get three or four that really need to be investigated," says the officer, and with such a heavy workload, officers spend their days off board under paramedics. Worse, because they begin to eat careers. "In stead of investing time in cases, they're looking for ways out. They want to kill off an issue at once."

The means of patching off investigations are varied. Sometimes officers may investigate if "we've seen one" provide a slush identification of a perpetrator, the controller says. Or they might try to characterize a victim—impliedly or not so implausibly—from pressing charges. "Let's say two people who are drunk have beaten each other up fairly badly—broken noses, bleeding," he explains. "You find witnesses who say, 'yup, that guy started it' by taking a bent tortilla and smashing it over that guy's head."

"Well, how many times have I seen a lone officer go up to the victim and say, 'You know what? I realize your head's bent and you have a black eye, but this guy is an acquaintance of yours, right? This isn't going to ensue

until about nine months from now, and by then you're going to forget all about that. You'll have to make a day off work, maybe two. You won't be going to be happy and you're going to need a money. So are you sure you want to be a stranger with this?'"

"When the guy finally says, 'Well, forget it,' you just write off the file." Victims know assault. Victims do not wish to make a statement and did not wish to press charges. Considered here. That kind of stuff happens all the time."

Like several officers who related their experiences (for obfuscation, the officer requested anonymity), among the RCMP has endlessly enforced provision of its code of conduct forbidding officers from "criticizing, ridiculing or complaining about the RCMP's administration, operation, objectives or policies."

Deitch's colleagues in other parts of the country tell similar stories. "Generally the guys only [criticize] one veteran officer in a federal police unit in southern Ontario. "We have to have the people in Alberta to cover our own," and the attitude is that "we'll get people when we can." And while no one's denying that this life-and-death status of patrol-level policing demands urgent response, anyone within the RCMP has little hope of solving cases such as the alleged assault and break-in from Finance Minister Ralph Goodale's office, unless it's ruled its role as a national agency more seriously. "They just don't have the resources to develop a centralized or private duty should it develop," says Ronald Melchers, a criminologist at the University of Ottawa. "Canada has always treated the FBI model, where the federal agency is really a resource pool for policing, developing expertise in technology, approaches, methods and training. There's a lot to be said for that. Maybe it's something we should look at more closely."

As things stand, the RCMP has enough challenges funding its meager federal operations. The force has never recovered from failed budget cuts in the 1990s, and it's true that many troubles continue to plague the force. Much of the extra \$1 billion Ottawa has added to the fiscal budget since 1998 has been siphoned away by national security demands brought on by Sept. 11. At the same time, the RCMP is grappling with aging equipment, costs related to technology and legal requirements. Court decisions on policing policy in-store and process practically every detail of their investigation—name book entries, time, minutes of the officers' own meetings—have doubled the cost of a single federal policing position from what it was 10 years ago, says Deputy Commissioner Tim Kellam. One study released earlier this year by the University College of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, B.C., found that the number of procedural steps required to execute a simple drug trafficking investigation



FIGURE 6: RCMP shown marching past new recruits, another part of a force that's having efficiency issues even as it gets more money and legal powers

has more than doubled since the mid-1990s.

The force also continues against readjusting itself into its clearance rates. Its drug enforcement data, for example, include cases investigated by a variety of personnel across the country, not just dedicated federal enforcement units, says Staff Sgt. Paul March, a spokesman in Ottawa. Factors that could influence clearance rates include changes to reporting methods, legislative amendments and other decisions.

"Detailed analysis would have to be conducted to determine what factors contributed to the change," he says.

**T**he debate over resources, and the uncertainty over performance, inevitably highlights controls over forces as the heart of the institutional transition. They are as seriously riveted. Police to pay Paul, and the results, securer, is independence in both sides of their operation. While the auditor general claims the numerous shortcomings in federal policing, the Fraser Valley College study notes that RCMP police cited have

OFF TARGET: Clearance rates for drug cases have fallen from 50 per cent to 36 per cent.



the RCMP as the best in the country. "They are the leading in their field, of which they have no fail to do the job, to oversee policing, but tell us something about the values and priorities," says Stoeckli of the University of Guelph. "It shows where they really think their breed and breeders." Indeed, the RCMP's leadership is divided at the suggestion that its rural elements are in decline. "Our 'Aer' can colleagues carry us for training, the levels of policing we do," says Dillon from RCMP headquarters in Ottawa. "Contract policing is where most of us in this organization gain our experience to be good police officers, good investigators. Without us, we'll be having a bit of a threat to our credibility—and by extension to our way to treat a national crime."

have little incentive to create their own police forces, notes Chris Murphy, a law enforcement expert at Dalhousie University who has studied the RCMP. Under current arrangements, Ottawa picks up 30 per cent of the policing bill for provinces that use the Mounties, and taper out for smaller police forces. Even if the feds managed to reduce their share after 2012, any province, region or city that turns up its nose would likely save lots of money. "The RCMP," he says, "is one of the most efficient deployment models out there."

He may not know it yet, but that's all bad news for ambitious young officers like Nohel Johnson. Back in Saguenay, he spends his evenings high as the graduation drill cap-and-muff, and about as oily as family and friends of the new Mounties begin filing from the hall. It will be another 10 hours before the auditor general releases her bleak report, and far east Johnson's dreams are still. Commissioner Zecchelli has made a surprise appearance at the ceremony, welcoming the grads to "the great legacy" of the force. "My grand parents and parents would be more proud," says Johnson, placing a cloth of inferior who have come to see her soon in "The RCMP is a symbol of Canada."

Perhaps, but the Mounties are also expected to uphold something a lot more precious than the spirit of a nation. They're supposed to represent excellence in law enforcement, an identity impossible to maintain if their efforts increasingly end in confusion and failure. Preserving the status quo, therefore, may be their favour to officers like Johnson. If the values of dissent are right, it's both a betrayal of their trust and—by extension—a betrayal of the way to treat a national crime.



<sup>10</sup> See *op. cit.* note 9. The *Journal* of the *Quebecois* is what really has the people of Quebec

## How did that happen?

## Why the most heavily polled, parsed and analyzed campaign in memory caught most experts by surprise

BY JOHN SEDLER • *“Nobody uses the Tory surge strategy better than the Tories.”* The Tories, at the center of the campaign, positioned another Liberal minority, the Charestian majority, as the “other.” Even when they put the Conservative parties together, they did so in a manner that undermined the strength of the party. Charest’s ability to

shock of the repulsive but charming range. Sure, polls, though, did offer glimpses of the drama that was to unfold – “only somebody had noticed.” They measured a broad desire for change among voters, and underscored that fear of a Harper “hidden agenda.” Disengaged. So who didn’t? The statistics were put these days together and showed that something big was happening. Not in the job description, they protest. “Polls are not intended to predict an outcome,” says Nan Nasrin, president of the polling firm 865 Research. “The structure of the polling firm 865 Research, it’s not an analytical body. It changes and responds to every new client in the market.”

“You can’t make up this sort of stuff,” she says. “You can’t predict what it will move the polls. Still, hindsight brings out a sense of unease, like the stages of those big camping names out. At the start, Alton Gasco, chairman of the Strategic Oracle, and his team brought potential voters together, listening and even remarked, with an air of humility, that “people have made up their minds.” But Gasco also saw the campaign’s very first “day that the next disaster” change since the 2004 election was that Ontario’s own had grown far less suspicious of the Tories. In about the month leading up to the election call, he noted, the Liberal lead over the Conservatives in the

A list of 100 rural areas in the state shows 60 percent of them have

Associated press news wire may also  
want to do that one. But the horse race  
number than dominates the news—how many  
1  **HIDDEN AGENDA**  
A tiny press release

MITCHELL AGENCE DAIRY JUST A DAD DOWN

A Tony green release: "Due to an error 2nd edition, an advertisement by candidate John Spitzer in the *Pojoaque Post*, *South Africa Observer*, and *Albuquerque Bulletin* newspapers may have left readers with a false impression. Reaffirmed trust in the *Advocateship* 'Protect Health Care for all-Electives'—Replace waiting times, *South Africa—Protect sessions "period"* was mistakenly condemned to *Health & Health Care of Electives*—Protect using non-negotiable

people say they'd vote for each party nationally—committed to favour the Liberals until the week between Christmas and New Year". Then Harper shot to the lead. The trigger seemed to be news of that RCMP investigation. Another factor was the finding Sunday of a shooting in Toronto, which appeared to suggest some Conservative links that may be the Toronto Stephen Harper and other users. With some justification, Liberal strategists say nobody could have forecast in July "extremism".

What policies are supposed to do is to plan underlying understandings and chart movement

'The electorate is an organic body, not a mathematical body.' Meaning? Search me.

at happen?  
parsed and analyzed  
most experts by surprise  
would blow many more for losing their  
buds on popcorn and beer, and a bizarre TV  
ad, which wasn't supposed to be released at all,  
suggesting a Terry government would put  
collars on the arms in the style of a  
Latin American dictatorships.

Now comes the real test of itself, which  
means it can't depend on old news, old  
advice. So here's how the media can do a better  
job of covering the election.

particular, the Conservative party has been unable to fully bury its blagues. How the campaign unravelled. At the start, Alain Grégoire, chairman of the Strategic Council, said it had a front-loading potential to another Liberal victory, and even remarked, with an air of glee, that "people have made up their minds." But Grégoire also sat at the campaign's very first day that "the most dramatic" change since the 2004 election was that the Quebecois had had enough for last impressions of the Tories. In about the month's sitting up to the election call, he noted, the

For online exclusives, including multi-media coverage with live-party feeders, photo galleries, guest bloggers, Movie Briefings, Whence Knows, Cigar City, and more, visit [www.espn.com/politics/2008](http://www.espn.com/politics/2008).

AIM Trimapak Inc., a company in Finland, made some of the best winter tires in the world. And, that just over the border, 140 million Russians were desperate for quality winter tires. So, we invested in the company. Today it's the leading supplier of winter tires in Russia and the world's most profitable publicly traded tire manufacturer. It's also made our investors a lot of money. And not just in winter. Ask your Financial Advisor about AIM Trimapak or visit [aimtrimapak.com](http://aimtrimapak.com).

Knowing Pays.  AIM TRIMARK



# Born again in Syria

Evangelical Christian churches have been drawing Arabs across this Middle East nation

BY MICHAEL PETRAS • Among firecrackers, fireworks, people and overloaded men carry beaded black rosaries into the dusty air. The vehicles dodging cars and brave police officers in their stars around the traffic, cards outside the last church gate into the walled old city of Damascus. It was at this lesson in the first century that St. Paul of Tarsus was smuggled out of the city, known from its walls in a basket after he had enraged local officials by preaching Christianity in their synagogues. By that time St. Paul had already experienced his Blinding revelation on the road to Damascus, becoming Paul the Apostle, and subsequently spreading Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

St. Paul, therefore, might be an appropriate place for Christian evangelism. Indeed, a short walk away, past the tangled streets and alleys of Damascus's Jewish quarter [now virtually empty of Jews], the Sunday night service at the al-Nazaret church, evangelical church in full swing in the old city's traditional Christian neighborhood, Pastor Brem, a 25 year old man with a thick, well-trimmed black beard, carrying beneath a cassock, gold-colored crosses as he walked from his eyes closed, he holds one arm aloft in front of him, palm upward, in the preacher in a rhythmic voice, half singing, half speaking, accompanied by a man on an elevated organ that frames a dark machine "Jesus is Lord." Brem says, slightly shrugging his eyes and dropping his hands, a whisper: "Let there always be in our hands, Let there be no obstacles between Jesus and us Amen. Amen." Amen.

It's a lesson that has long been forgotten in countless Christian churches across America, and in where evangelical churches in Europe and North America. But while Protestant churches have existed in Syria since the mid-19th century, it's only in the past one or two decades that evangelical churches have sprung up here. Pastor Brem's congregation is overwhelmingly Arab, at least one man wears the traditional red beret and light headwrap. The members sing in Arabic. They call it Jehovah's Witnesses. They call it Jesus. "Jesus says his church doesn't fit anyone. It does, however, give God to several hundred Iraqi Christians who have been forced from their homes by ISIS and have found refuge in Damascus."

Syria has had all that before. "Without this religious view," he says, "it's a lack of knowledge based on ignorance. They call it Jehovah's Witnesses. They call it Jesus. "Jesus says his church doesn't fit anyone. It does, however, give God to several hundred Iraqi Christians who have been forced from their homes by ISIS and have found refuge in Damascus."

Christ as the savior. We don't ask anyone about their religious background. Orthodox, Muslim, whatever. "We believe Jesus is the savior of all people. We are a kind of Pentecostal church. That church can't just for the Nazarene. It's for everyone."

Members of the congregation speak openly about their desire to convert Muslims to Christianity, and to bring other Christians into their evangelical fold. This would not be possible in most Middle Eastern countries, where there are strict laws prohibiting Christians from proselytizing Muslims. But Syrian Christians are protected by Bashar al-Assad's secular despotism and are allowed to preach in public, distributing Bibles and preaching between its worship with others. "We are evangelists," says John Burns, a young member of the al-Nazaret church. "We believe in witnessing and bringing the message of Christ to the streets." The al-Nazaret congregation

gathering now includes several former Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this causes some resistance among the religious who follow. Christianity has deep and strong roots here. Jesus was born in the Middle East, and as many Eastern Orthodox Christians are quick to point out, this is Christianity's spiritual home. The church's long history is evident everywhere in the country. John the Baptist's head is allegedly held in the Umayyad Mosque, which was once an early Christian church, and Byzantine-era monuments still dot the dusty wilderness.

In the past century, however, it has suffered massive losses in the Middle East. Christians—deserted by natural and religious persecution across the region. Christianity is conspicuously safe in Syria, but many Syrians and Christians fear that its position might change under the threat of Islamic State. Some of Assad's regime's collapse. Hundreds of thousands have emigrated. "We have problems

with the youth who think that because we are a minority is not our country," Sister Dina Feyyad says at the monastery of Mar Manu. Feyyad, carved into the face of a cliff overlooking a river, cleaves across north of Damascus. "We have to work on the sides that this is our country. This is where Christianity began, and it is where we want to stay."

These Christian religious leaders who have watched the diminishing presence of their faith in the region are perhaps loath to see their flock driven further through conversion, even in other Christian denominations. As the ruling religious among some Christians in Syria is strangely at odds with examples of religious hierarchy between Muslim and Christians in the country. At the Convent of Our Lady of the olive of Balamaya, Mother Marthe, the woman's hair covered by hijab, gray robes, Christian scholars an icon of the Virgin Mary, reportedly prepared by Jesus. Luke.

"Ten years married, on today," one of the



monastics who Christianity are present of by Bashar al-Assad's secular despotism.

parent in Christianity's Eastern home on a way that has been largely forgotten in Europe and North America. Indeed, Arab Christians are considered with suspicion and suspicion by some who commented after taking before them. "Yes, Christians pray here too," the man tells me, and it's nothing out of the ordinary. "Mary is the mother of the same world." It is not unusual in the Middle East for such an uninvited space to be simultaneously used by members of both religions.

Christianity and Islam share a common and often intertwined history. This is still apparent in Christianity's Eastern home on the West, which partially explains some of the hostility it faces in the Middle East. But both in opposition and opposition agree on one thing: its size, and influence, is growing.

## RUSSIA: A LAND WITHOUT VODKA

With exports of food and drink reaching up to 94 per cent of world Russian market leaders, the government has introduced strict export controls for all domestically produced vodka, but on Jan. 1, when the stamps were due to come, they were held back by revenues. Reeling the Russian vodka-drinking industry to come to a halt, officials faced acute shortages in the alcohol-coded and carousal and news commentators have warned of riots and even revolution.



# YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH MAIL

Companies are starting to fight back against an avalanche of email that's stressing out employees while leaving executives 'battered to death'

**MY MOTHERING MACHELEM** • Almost a year ago, John Coleman set an ambitious and audacious goal for his department of bad people. He asked his staff to reduce their annual volume by 25 percent over the course of 12 months. As vice-president of the pharmaceuticals firm Pfizer, Coleman felt that oral had gained out of control. "Many people judge their productivity based on how many emails they've responded to," he says. "That's a ridiculous measure."

Californians' alone in his view. Originally built in a more arid and office-oriented culture, it has emerged as the scourge of the modern workplace. With that upbeat logic—the term equivalent of a happy face—announcing the arrival of every message, email has upped stress levels in cubicles around the world. It demands ever-increasing hours, it's prone to daily judgment from the consciousness and a hiding place for the inner自我. It can even be credited with introducing new forms of rudeness, such as email threats message below the take on wireless handheld devices during meetings or conferences or, yes, during

Now the bad habit is growing. "We're going to the place where people stay in their offices and send an email rather than get up out of their chair to cross the hall," says Cole. And so, largely at the expense of an employee's communication skills, he's had a charge to remain in the halls. He brought in an email monitor to provide stats on efficient use. He keeps a file of inappropriate emails, "so no pickan anyone," he says, but he provides examples of what not to do. In July, his group introduced Flexwork 8 to 8, a ban on email messages between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and on weekends. "The agent of the whole idea is to enable employees to disconnect when they go home... so they are all the more productive when they get back to work," he explains.

Coleman's measure about aims and is backed up by research. A survey conducted by TNS Research for Hewlett-Packard found that two out of three office workers check email at their office hours and 40% on holiday. A total of 1,200 business people in the UK and the world responded that the majority are not living from an overload of work, but from a lack of delegation or lack of delegation. A third of UK workers feel that they are not being given enough time to work on their own projects.



TWO OUT OF THREE OFFICE WORKERS DON'T WANT THEIR OFFICE TO HAVE ANGELA WHITNEY AS A HOLIDAY

**Employees copy their bosses on low-priority messages, also known as CYA (Cover Your Ass) mails**

He was no longer over her. After he reluctantly sent a less aggressive letter to his girlfriend, to an office colleague, he quit job rather than face disciplinary action. As he mulling over career anxiety when he wasn't getting any reply, which was when he went to text and email me, "I'm pregnant," partner leader of Kinsmen for Clean Alcohol Trust, where the name being tested, told the *Calgary Weekly*. "This was just the hallmark of my character, where social health problems such as depression, lack of self esteem and relationship breakdown were a result of the substance." He was never a drinker by name, told TEC, there was something comforting about morning messages. "It's like a game of ping-pong," he said, "in you send one and me get one back."

The constant flow of email can feed emotional dependence and manipulation. "We are seduced by the idea that our importance is linked to how busy we are—which is rubbish," says Ann Scales, a control-based consultant with the Institute for Personal Effectiveness, London.



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includes haywings (such as Cigar duofold and Bamboos). "We coach people every day on how to manage the double-edged sword of form," he says. One client called Starla after discovering 10,000 messages in an employee's inbox. Some of them unanswered, Starla's client sought her advice. But

before Scarles could connect with the worker, he quipped: "When someone is drowning, or close to drowning out, they are likely to seize the hand that comes to help," Scarles says. "They see it as a threat."

The other problem is the loss of productivity from all the interruptions. Email traffic around the world clocks in at 1.6 billion messages a day, up from 5.1 billion five years ago, according to the Radicati Group, a technology and market research firm in Palo Alto, Calif. The typical business worker is interrupted six to eight times a day, leading one researcher to conclude that email consumes about 20 per cent of a knowledge worker's day, or 28 billion hours per year in the United States. At an average cost of \$121 an hour, the

ing, about two years ago, the advised to check email first thing in the morning, in part of an email-management strategy, with incentives to focus on something especially important for the first of their day—and to keep their email off.

not so much the interruption itself takes up time, but rather the delay be-  
tween handling the interruption and getting  
to where you were. Especially in an un-  
stable window on computer screen,  
also when what there was done.

“It’s a strong argument to make in our field,” says Michael J. Lighthill, a professor of environmental science at B.C. ’s Simon Fraser University.

ail interruptions caused workers' IQ to drop 10 points—more than double the drop for pot smokers.

ally up to users to set their own limits in technology." They have a choice, Schell says, at first. People can turn off the instant delivery of new messages and check them less frequently, he says. If that's not an option, he adds, and users should be aware of the potential for addiction, "then it's time to take a break from the technology, to take a vacation from the computer, to take a vacation from the Internet, to take a vacation from e-mail, for instance, or to take a vacation from e-mail, or writing emails to unwanted people, or sending emails to unwanted people, or whatever it is that you feel compelled to do." Many of these are the kind of things that you could expect, from someone who is just learning how to use something, he says. "But for people whom the mistakes are financial,"

Coleran agrees the advantage of on-site data is evident. "Blazing RIM and overused is the blinding BMW for me," he says. But he knows that a cellular connection has to take place, unless new features are swapped by the system's message. "Head (the car) isn't all about speeding up connection, but does teach the system to connect in the wrong way," he says. "It's not the more innovative in launching new technologies or competing with its competitor, to make sure my employees do not waste a little time is possible, focused on cellular, much time as possible, instead of in investigations, by reducing the volume of errors in investigations, we allow people to focus on tasks building and not on paper stuff."

### *Conclusions*

researchers' pace academics universally find designs less for new theories. In experiments with increased numbers, for instance, solitaires play better, easier to organize their numbers when they could use them all down on a large surface. Office workers idly think in an ad hoc sort of way—the ratio of footfalls rises around many desks. A bigger server, of course, won't be a small, but it might help people use

It would be important, on a card entry by ranking us chapter Gleeson Wilson, Somers at King's College, London University and other members and friends

# Bleeding newspapers dry

**STEVE MARKS**  
Working for any big public company has its downside. With all those quarterly profit reports and the relentless scrutiny of shareholders, most employee operations under a general sense of unease, with the knowledge that they're always just a couple of bad moves away from an unplanned career change.

But some are worse than others.

Hydro-Québec, the lucky few who fall in with an up-and-coming firm clearing out a new market niche, you may experience a temporary period of grace in which the natural laws of market economics are suspended. So long as your CEO can construct a somewhat plausible (and flexible) definition of "profit" or "survivability," you're in the clear. This quarter maybe it's an 18 per cent rise in rates, next quarter an improvement in operating cash flow instead of earnings. That keeps these psyche-analysts and shareholders at bay, so the bewhiskered labour force can keep collecting paycheques in a smorgasbord of temporary stability.

If, on the other hand, you work for an established company in a mature industry with uncertain prospects, you are not so lucky. You might consider yourself a model of productivity, a star of clever ideas, and a hawk of a guy to have around at the Christmas party, but to the see-sawing department you are a cost center and nothing more. You're doomed to Red Rover,淘汰, no matter what those quarterly reports say, because profits always be higher, costs always be lower.

Such is life for the poor initiated, which is why it's a good idea for *CanWest MediaWorld*—the incendiary trial launched last year, and now played out in the big newspapers like the *Newspaper Star*, *Calgary Herald*, and *Globe and Mail*, formerly known as the Southern chain. A couple of weeks ago, the trial reopened in first set of quietly results and a new era of noisy legal. On the battlefield, they looked pretty good—revenue up five per cent, cash flow of \$47 million, good for a margin of around 15 per cent. This, though, wasn't good enough.

The analysts saw only rising costs, and results that didn't live up to their lofty expectations. *MediaWorld CEO Peter West* didn't fully premises could better, enrolling the section on "disservice" explanation for blood on the floor. "We will focus our focus on cost control," he told analysts, and set to work the chain immediately began reducing the

leverage it has on its union contracts. But don't blame West. He's caught between an irresistible fever and an immovable object.

On one side he has *CanWest's* controlling Angus family, which is eager to assert a cost that couldn't benefit from a little more "control." No matter what the question, less money is always the preferred answer at CanWest. You'd think the company might have learned from its gain through experience at the *Star*—but no. After years of backtracking, the Angers decided this is the only way to improve the *Post* was to eliminate its resources. They figured readers and advertisers loved them.

## Papers have only one competitive advantage to rely on in the fight against a new media onslaught: journalists

the paper as much, they'll pay even more to get less of it. Every penny is now stretched until it's tattered, but profit remains elusive.

A similar approach has now surprised *CanWest's* once-dominant position in print media television. A few years back, rival CTV seized the advantage over Global, and showed no signs of giving it back. The legacy of *CanWest's* parenting was reflected in a 45 per cent drop-off in Canadian TV profits in 2001, and *CanWest CEO Leonard Aspernwein* figures it'll take at least five years to rebound the shattered TV franchise.

And when is the runaway spending that *CanWest* is now so determined to contain? Well, spending cuts of the previous 70 per cent, while obvious, just isn't that far: there's another quarter of the increase was due to the start-up of two new publications, *Le Droit* and *Alto*. The company also has rolled out a new line flushed out, and like everybody, had to cope with higher fuel prices. Including those items, costs increased by less than seven per cent—hardly an alarming number for a company investing in its future and finding off a host of new technological competitors. But, as far as *Star* is concerned, the game has changed and it's here the corporations.

The *Star* who lost sight of this, by regarding reporters and editors as costs as opposed to assets, real their own fate. Perhaps the parts of *Star* *Stevens* have already left the poor business. That's their prerogative. But newsroom programmes ought to know better. ■

### CONTRACT KILLING: DAMNED IF YOU DON'T

As a contractor, Kevin Reeves survived on biffy. *Christian Ryker* from Kent, England, paid Reeves \$10,000 to kill his Reeves took the money, and held up a drive-by shooting, but never got around to killing a lot man to dispose of the biffy removed. When he had changed, and last went to court, found Reeves guilty of despatch, sentencing him to 15 months and ordering him to pay Ryker \$4,000 that spent the rest of Ryker's money.



POOR BOY FIRM: *CanWest* slashed budgets at the *Montreal Star*, but profit remains elusive

he had only one competitive advantage with which to fight back against *Google*, *Yahoo*, *Craiglist* and a thousand other online service and journals, digging out exclusive information. In the end, the method of delivery is irrelevant, the best information wins.

Those who lost sight of this, by regarding

reporters and editors as costs as opposed to assets, real their own fate. Perhaps the parts of *Star* *Stevens* have already left the poor business. That's their prerogative. But newsroom programmes ought to know better. ■



**A VILLAGE** in the Lavaltrie region, north of Montreal, has been struck particularly hard. "Brain says 'Stop! of those patients are amputated without anaesthesia—you can cut their bone and they don't feel anything,'"

Within the past decade, researchers have sequenced the two main genes responsible for HSAN1 and four other varieties of HSAN (HSAN1, for instance, is like HSAN1 in that the implicated gene is recessive, meaning two defective copies have to be inherited—one from each parent) and found it. (If a person has a child with another carrier—in the *St. Léonard's* case—the couple has a one-in-four chance of having a child with the disease.) HSAN1, closely associated with *Alzheimer's*, is more complex, however, and includes mental retardation and major problems controlling blood pressure.

Anecdotal evidence suggests carriers of a single copy of the mutated gene may briefly lose perception of pain, cold, and particularly "A lot of the patients of these children are fine," says Bois, "but these are the people who go outside, sit around, shiver with a skin disorder, no gloves and wearing shorts." This apparent resistance to frigid temperatures may have factored in early French settlers remaining in a region with bitterly cold winters. Other studies may lead to a better understanding of pain and pain management.

In her brief life, *Alzheimer's* *Robillard* has had at least several fractures. In one case, a car put out to repair a broken heel fractured her enough to break the skin, cause an infection and eventually an open sore through which her mother could see the child's bone. ■

**'Some of these patients are amputated without anaesthesia—you can cut their bone and they just don't feel anything'**

Today, the girl is confined to a wheelchair, the chair resting from a broken leg fibula. That, coupled with widespread ignorance of the disease, *Amélie Bois*, *Mirrle Robillard*, "When we tell people we doesn't feel any thing, they sometimes say, 'Hey, that's great it doesn't feel!'" Robillard says. "And I tell them, 'Well, well, the wouldn't have been amputated all those years had it been in the first place.' She'd likely be the first to tell you, as an pain is really a good thing." ■

### AN AIDS DRUG IN THE DAIRY CASE

*Lactobacillus* *casei*, a bacterium used in yogurt and cheese making, has been genetically modified to release the promising HIV blocking drug *enfuvirtide*. *BBB* *experimental*, the technique could be a cheaper and more effective way of delivering the AIDS drug, especially as it develops well. Because the bacterium has an affinity for residing in the human body, yogurt containing the bacterium could be a much easier delivery vehicle.





# Yes, Canada also had slaves—for 200 years

How a defiant black woman sought her freedom, and likely razed Montreal's core

BY ERIN BETRUE — In 1775, the governor general of New France, the Marquis de Beauharnais, found himself in need of a hangman and torturer, a position most colonized societies had trouble keeping manned. So he obtained, from the Caribbean island of Martinique, a black slave and unconvicted murderer named Mathieu Laverdiere. Given the choice of being executed for being a slave or for being a murderer, Laverdiere opted to kill or the French north. He never really adapted to life in Canada, perhaps, as he left, dying of pneumonia in 1776, even though the government had bought him a slave woman "to warm his bed." But during his three years in Quebec, Laverdiere did his duty by the society that kept him in bondage, most famously in 1774, when he tortured, strangled and hung his fellow slave, Marie Joseph Angélique, for the crime of burning down the core of Old Montreal.

This isn't the Canadian history most of us learn in school. African slavery is something we associate with the plantation economies of the southern United States and the Caribbean, an evil that only went out of vogue in the 19th century. What Canadian slavery for 200 years, is much like land in Quebec's Lavaltrie and Beauharnois, a place and University of Montreal historian, aims to shatter that stereotype. *The History of Slavery in Quebec* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), a rare history book based on Angélique's 270-year-old trial record, the old New World drama re-emerges.

About 1,500 black slaves were brought to Canada under the French regime. After the American Revolution, another 2,000 came north with their United Empire Loyalists. Most New France slaves were the property of the elite—de Beauharnais owned 27—and lived in urban areas, filling in jobs from personal service to rice cooking to laundry. Most historians describe them as a relatively mild form of bondage, for less brutal than life on a sugar plantation or the mines of Brazil. Perhaps so, but it was still slavery.



THE SLAVE'S portrait by François-Xavier Mallet, 1775. What may have been one of Canada's last slaves

and Angélique, for one, found a comfortable life. She was born a slave in Portugal. From there, a French owner brought her to New England, only to sell her to wealthy Montreal fur trader François-Xavier Angélique and his wife, Thérèse de Caenage. That was in 1753, when Angélique was 20. Over the next few years she bore three children (all of whom would also have been the property of the de Franchezillies) and had three servants. After François died suddenly in November 1753, Angélique—according to the trial record—began a changed woman. She had a new lover within

the household, an embittered white salaried servant named Claude Thibault. She began making aggressive demands for her liberty—Cooper speculated (though may have used her as a consultant) pursued her freedom after his death—and threatening to "rent" the now-slave and her white servants after Thibault refused the request.

When Thibault responded to Angélique's demands of terror by selling her to a Quebec City acquaintance for 250 francs (or gun powder), the widow universally cold Angélique she'd been sold. Knowing that she would be sent closer to Quebec after the ice break on the St. Lawrence in the spring of 1774, Angélique and Thibault attempted a December escape to New England. They were caught after two weeks on the run, and Angélique was returned, still reclusive, to her master. Then, one April 10, only days before her last travel to Quebec City would begin

## She was tortured, strangled and hanged by a fellow slave

again, for the last coming from the de Franchezillies' wife. Spurred by flogging, slapping, biting and caustic acid on her mouth and tongue, challenging women who scoffed about her threats and safely changing her story over the two-month trial. But she was a black slave woman in a civilization very determinedly sedentary. Still堅持ing her innocence, she was found guilty, then tortured, her life bones shattered by Lavaltrie until she confessed on setting fire to life.

Did she? It seems likely. Her confession may have been extracted under torture, but her torturers also wanted her to implicate Thibault, who had run away the night of the fire, never to be seen again. And that she would not do, despite her agony—a final act of courageous defiance from a woman who refused to accept her fate.

### THE VATICAN: A PAPAL SECRET SERVICE GIGANT

This past Saturday marked the 500th anniversary of the first recruitment of Swiss Guards by Pope Julius II in 1506, the Swiss were desperately poor and many Swiss nobles were forced to seek work abroad as mercenary soldiers. The pope gave them to protect the Vatican during a period of severe political turbulence. Today they form an honour guard, wearing the same colours as that of the 15th century Medici papacy. Last R.

**HOW THEY DID IT...**

# Managing investments

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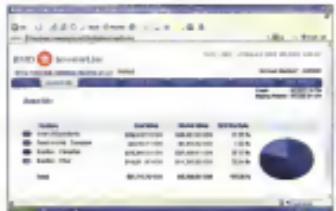
**A**s an investor you want to make all the right moves. First you create a carefully thought-out investment plan. Then you make that plan come alive with well-chosen investments. But what about managing those investments going forward? How can you respond effectively to the inevitable changes in the market, while at the same time remain diversified and on course with your plan? The answer: It's easier when you take a disciplined approach and use the online tools that are available to you.

A disciplined approach means giving your portfolio the time and attention it deserves. Review diversified and investment year asset allocation as the enables you to keep yourself on course with your plan and select them.

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# BUILT FOR SPEED



**Talent, desire, training—they mean nothing if you haven't got the fastest suit in the world**

**BY JONATHAN SATEHOUSE** • There's not much you can do in a 10th of a second. Elite sprinters need about 15% more time to react to the starter's gun. The blink of an eye (less than three or four times as long) shortening on the break in a car requires a 10% time advantage—two full seconds.

Olympic athletes live by a different clock.

For speed skaters in the men's 500 m, a 10th of a second is 149 ms. On a downhill slalom, even with a 15-degree slope, it's three ms. In curling, head first down the skeleton track at 120 km/h, it's 1.1 ms. In the Winter Games, a tenth of a second is the margin between total failure and absolute victory.

The war with the stopwatch is almost over, the

search for advantage continues. It's why athletes break down each element of their performance—starts, strides, turns, glides—and spend years perfecting to perfect them. It purifies the bags and makes them lighter. It cuts muscle fat, filled with equipment suited to every conceivable snow or ice condition. And it explores how. (If Poole and the other members of Canada's skeleton team have come to speed skating victory dry looking in side an Ottawa real-estate listing, taking off mature shirts, dressed in their racing suits and helmets,

the athletes fast down and negotiate on their sleds while a guest for half an hour with 120 km between.) And the central reason does not start with a given, biomechanical-style analysis, says says from the National Research Council and the Canadian Olympic Committee, which the servers and scurries in. Each after takes on multiple combinations of shoes and helmets for aerodynamics. After whispered consultations, they make minute adjustments to the angle of their racing feet. Hands and arms, tucked against the sides of their bodies, are turned out so slightly. To walk the rest of the day, the athletes leave behind a thin ribbon of smoke from the tunnel, as sunburn cameras capture the narrow and odd-looking over-head shoulders and backsides. All in the heat for that fraction of a second.

Poole, the reigning world champion, thinks back over his 10-year sliding career, and recalls at least three occasions where he has lost a mere 1/10th of a second. In his 2001-02 season, one of those tight finishes was the

up a doesn't matter," says Poole, who finished ninth in Salt Lake, 0.96 m off the gold medal pace. "Because I've done 1,400 runs and none of them have been perfect yet."

It's a safe bet that no racing Olympian—the journalists who cover them—have more than a nodding acquaintance with the

## For downhill skiers, a 10th of a second means 3 m—more than the margin of victory

rules of physics. But ignorance is no excuse in the eyes of anyone's lens. There are some basic limitations in how fast you can ski, slide, slide, and it all has to do with the relationship between power and speed. The bigger the object, the more power it takes to accelerate. And the faster you go, the more the forces working against you—friction, air drag—tend to hold you back. Doubling your velocity, whatever you're running, swimming, or most country skiing, increases the wind drag by a factor of four. And that means you

importance is a quick dash for the peak, or a long grind toward a distant finish line.

"Condensing and the makeup of the athletes are the chief factors between a winner and a loser, but inside the aerodynamics add to the advantage," says Chet Kyle, the man just recently credited with revolutionizing speed skating in sports. In 1973, when he was a professor of mechanical engineering at California State University, Long Beach, he over saw a student project that discovered that 90 per cent of the resistance to the motion

**WHAT A DRAG** As part of Canada's technology program, dubbed "Top Secret," a sidecar race has two layers in the wind tunnel to put up eight times the power to overcome the resistance and get to near the speed.

Athletes who ratified in the Olympic Games and most especially the select sub-group with a shot in the podium, all create essentially the same amount of power. For them, being the fastest on a given day is often about getting the best start, making the fewest mistakes, and having the most efficient equipment. It can also be a matter of aerodynamics. At the risk, for example, a hockey play-

er speed skater expend 25 per cent of their energy fighting against the friction of the ice, and the other 75 per cent trying to cut through the air. Reduce the friction of the air, even by the tiniest amount, and the athlete immediately gets more bang for his buck—an energy advantage that could be equally

important as a quick dash for the peak, or a long grind toward a distant finish line. "Condensing and the makeup of the athletes are the chief factors between a winner and a loser, but inside the aerodynamics add to the advantage," says Chet Kyle, the man just recently credited with revolutionizing speed skating in sports. In 1973, when he was a professor of mechanical engineering at California State University, Long Beach, he oversaw a student project that discovered that 90 per cent of the resistance to the motion

**OLYMPICS** **I** had the most reaching chest. He realized that specially secured film on a model's lower legs could dramatically reduce wind resistance by creating what is known as a "drag cross." The same way that a golfer's cleats help him through the tee, this cross-angled film made the five-second run more stable, leaving fewer ripples in the wake, and reducing the trailing forces. While other researchers had papers and hired him as part of their Advanced Innovation Institute in 1998, they tested about 100 fabrics and spent one year with these pieces. Said Scott: "It took tough patchwork, though, because it didn't mesh on a back and torso — that are tailored to each sport, and at the case of speed skating, lie on the events' seats, in people's torsos."

In Lake Louise, where the U.S. and Canada strong swimmers were confounded by Nale, all of the 16 Olympic medallists were wearing the suit. The company says its athletes were, on average, faster per centimetre. In Team, the Canadians and U.S. hockey teams will be outfitted with Nale uniforms. Su will reuse them after slams and long track speed skating runs—the U.S., Korea, China, Belgium, the Netherlands—although Canadian swimmers race in the Descartes suit. Other countries

A black and white photograph showing a group of cyclists in a peloton, viewed from the side. They are wearing helmets and dark cycling gear. The image is slightly blurry, suggesting motion.

**SPEED DEMOGRAPH** The 1954 U.S. cycling census was the first research for designs from Gert Kele.

owners have introduced their own drag-reducing fabrics, and the high-tech uniforms are popping up in all sorts of disciplines, winter and summer. Research shows that body suits are more aerodynamic than human skin (subsonic air travels at 760 mph speed), even on the supposedly flat track. "It's made because of more aerodynamics and a growing number of track and field events," says Kyle. "There's not many sprints anymore," says Kyle. "As long as it's legal, athletes will look for the best equipment available."

Whether the advantages of an integrated and all-inclusive of disease. The Salt Lake Games will be the last ones in almost every sport to offer solid sheets for curling, specially designed inboards, a lengthened shotgun rifle, solid brass thermometers and limited success and still have not replaced with yet more innovations in form. The psychological effect of new and improved equipment surrounding the Canadian Olympic Committee is no longer downplay, however. Even the Pedersen, the COC's 2010 winter program to help Canada realize its 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, will provide clear compensation on budget on infrastructure and advanced training—an initiative established "Top Seven." "Salt Lake City will be the last place to do a major equipment effort to ensure that we had the best rock, the best curling, equipment and training," says Dr. Roger Jackson, who was a sitting member of Canada's 1984 and heads the new program. "Most Canadian athletes didn't believe we had the best stuff, and it showed." Although this country was producing a list of medal hopefuls, they were matching the predominantly well-financed and considered teams in other top winter Olympic nations.



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the merchant seafarers' union are now ranked No. 3 in the world. Melisa Hollingshead Roberts has made the podium in every World Cup race to date this season. "Dawn" is the only sailor that I know that has done this, but she's a lot of things different this year," she says. Lindsay Alcock, the 2006 World Cup champion, says the added financial and technical support has finally put the team on an even par with countries like the U.S. and Germany. "I just imagined how much better we could have been if we had done this earlier."

Todd Allinger, the man overseeing Tap Secret, hover in the background while Al

*Rough surfaces make air flow more turbulent, leaving fewer eddies and reducing drag*

cock and the other materials. He warned that someone is going to split the beans and give away a new hand position or bodyshift. For an Olympian, he said only "the last five years," he says, but at least doesn't make any less important. Alliger worked in a similar field for the Americans in the lead-up to the Lake City, a Games where the US won 14 medals, almost tripling its previous best. He knows that other countries are working on new ways, new info, new training, and everything else imaginable to provide their athletes with an advantage there. The medals are a motivator, but at the last minute, for maximum performance, there will be a window of opportunity when the Games are hoping of grasping the advantage.

Does Canada have something up its sleeve? There's a long pause. "Probably," is all he'll say but there's a grin that leaves you thinking that, for once, lucky athletes at least, that crucial tenth of second may already be in the bag. [www.sportcanada.ca](http://www.sportcanada.ca)



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# FALL DOWN WIN GOLD

Figure skating's new 'tamper proof' judging is complex, error-prone, and too forgiving—oh, and it's not tamper proof

**BY JONATHAN GREENHOUSE** — Maybe Christopher Little was right. After all, the guys were pretty convincing in the 2005 Canadian figure skating championships earlier this month. There were the little black bits of tears insulation that kept drifting down from the roof of the sprawling Ottawa Civic Centre, foregiving spectators to dispatch a legion of children and grandparents armed with binoculars to check the scores between each performance. And there's Little's performance in an event that determined the man who Canada will send to the Turin Games. And the whimpers and wails in the sport's version of the arms race—the quest for the gold.

Canada's Scott Brownning was the first to land it. Dina Stoyle, his successor, made it his trademark. For years, it was the winning combination in men's competition: at home and abroad. But under the new judging system adopted by figure skating after the corruption scandal at the Salt Lake games, the top of the podium is no longer reserved for the man of big feet. And as the results in Ottawa demonstrated, the next Olympic champion may well end up being the smartest, most of the subtlety, skaters on the ice.

Jeff Buttle, last year's world silver medalist, and Emanuel Sandhu, the three-time Canadian champion, both won for the quadruple toe loop in their long programs (twice-fall and three-timed out)—a one-revolution on the landing of a triple Axel and double a triple loop), but still earned 10 points for the nongrade. Sandhu, sheplanned the most difficult quad double toe loop combination, landed

his but was judged to also have earned out, a finish that under the new system downgraded his combination to a jump sequence, worth 10 points less. The net result: a score of 6.2. At the end of the night, when the star-filled programs were readied up, Buttle had beaten Sandhu and won the overall competition by about 20 points, largely on the strength of his artistic presentation. And the audience and journalists were left puzzled over how the gap got to be so big, not to mention how both men earned in new personal bests—256.90 and 247.68 respectively—despite the higher scores given under the new judging system. "You know what I won, so it was a championship shot," said Buttle. "It wasn't perfect, but I can feel pretty good that I have room for improvement."

Four years after the scandal in Salt Lake, that saw Canada's Scott and David Pelletier initially denied gold, figure skating is limping into Turin. On a swing and a prayer that the Olympic spotlight will distract enough skaters and fans, Artistic and viewership for competition has fallen through the floor. Stars like Joannie, Salt, Pelletier and Russia's Aliona Savchenko, have moved on to the professional ranks. And several of the sport's remaining big names, including Michelle Kwan of the United States and Evgeny Plushenko, the 2002 men's silver medalist, have been hampered by injury. Figure skating's biggest challenge, however, may be the innovation that was supposed to be its salvation—the new, "tamper proof" judging procedure.

It's the familiar à la système where a panel of judges watched the performances and marked them against each other, instead. At the nationals, Buttle fell on the quad, blew the landing on a triple Axel, and still won—with a personal best score

long nine sets of marks, one for technique, the other for artistic impression. In its place is the decidedly fin-surfacing Code of Points, a system as Byzantine that most skaters and coaches continue to feel fully grasping in requires. Skating to even the playing field, the International Skating Union created an inventory of every spin, jump, lift, spin and combination in the sport and assigned each a base mark. In jumps, for example, a simple loop is worth the least; 6.0 points, a triple Lutz a mark & a, and a quad and the most, 15 points. A panel of seven specialists, armed with instant-replay TV screens, now withs the competition to determine which have completed their elements, and if so, awards them the base mark. A panel of judges—12 at international competitions, eight at the next Canadian championships—then

grades the quality of each element on a seven-step scale, adding to calculating bonus marks. (The amount of the bonus, or penalty, is proportional to the base mark and change depending where the element occurs in the program.) The highest and lowest scores for each element are discarded, and the remaining judges' marks are averaged to give the most as final value. These values are then added together to give the overall technical score, now called the Total Elements Score. At the Olympics and other international events, there's an extra wrinkle to conform attempts to fit the results—while all 12 judges submit their marks, only nine of them are used, selected at random by a computer, said following sentence.

The same panel of judges also awards a new version of artistic marks, now called the component score. Skates get points based on how far they go in the choreography, execution, interpretation and timing, execution, and skating skills. These marks are again randomly selected, paired down, averaged and added together. The technical and component scores have equal weight. Short programs make up one-third of the total, the long program two-thirds. And in one last twist, international judging is now "anonymized" so no one, except the ISU's sailing committee, knows whose marks have gone into the final scores. In summary, the only thing that hasn't changed is that somebody wins, and somebody loses.

The Code of Points has been in place for just over a year, and the reviews have generally ringed with equal and opposite responses. It has led to an increase of technicality—so-called Japanese jumps in December, Nobusumi Ono had to earn his men's gold later after he was initially awarded points for a triple jump he didn't complete. At the U.S. nationals, Jeremy Abbott, Marcy Hines and Jason Brown, who placed second in the pairs competition, were immensely awarded a 10-point bonus for a throw triple loop. The error wasn't enough to change the outcome, but once committed—hence after the competition is over—this margin of victory over the third place couple shrinks from 1.16 points to 0.66.

So far, the Code of Points also appears to be considerably more forgiving about the performance system. Where the old standard used to be that a jump alone—and in the men's competition, the quad—were needed to fit the international pedigree, men, even big ones, are no longer fault for landing programs in the Trophée Bompard in Paris last November, Buttle fell an his quad attempt, stepped out of his triple Axel,angled another, and still won, again, mostly on the strength of his two sets of scores. "For sure, it wouldn't have been possible to win like that in the past," says Buttle. "But when people complain about it, I think there's a little bit of the old mentality—we are an error in the jump and automatically assume the skater should



**Colgate**



**FRONTROW:** From top, Emanuel Sandhu, Joannie Rochette, the U.S.'s Jeremy Abbott, Scott Moir and Russia's Irina Slutskaya. **ARTISTIC IMPRESSION:** Skaters can now move more easily



WINNING TEAM: Jill Daniels (center), flanked by partners Hamilton (right) and Moir (left)

be in the bottom group. But what if it's not just  
in all those other areas?"

There have also been suggestions—most notably after Russia's Oksana Koroleva won last year's European championships despite a horrid performance—that judges are using the new competition matrix to "push" skaters, just like the bad old days. "They changed a scoring system and that wasn't the problem," says Jill Daniels, a former U.S. figure skating judge and one of the whistle-blowers on Salt Lake. "It was about judges who cheated, and a culture of corruption in figure skating that allowed it to happen again and again."

The ISU made only token efforts to clean house, says Jackson, who has just published *On Edge*, an exposé of the sport's backstage dealings. While Stéphane Le Gouge, the French official whom Salt Lake blamed the Russian pair, Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, ahead of Salt and Pelletier, and Didier Guffogna, the president of the Fédération Française des sports de glace, were pressured to do so, he found their 18-month suspension, though an Olympic ban, inadequate and unfair for representatives. The Russians, who were allegedly set to return the favor by voting for a French ice-dancing couple, were investigated but never punished. (Jackson notes, in any conventional fashion—one of those implausible, Chevrolet-bumper, lead of the Russian youth sports federation, died in a hotel style fit in Moscow last August.) And things are getting even worse, says Jackson, who was part of a failed bid to start a real international skating show. The crooked judges continue to cast doubt, and the honest ones, scared of being singled out by the ISU's muckrakers, are silent for giving "inappropriate" marks, she goes along with the herd.

Since Barbara Gauthier, who won a six-year member of the ISU for 25 years, is also an outspoken critic of the new system, "I don't think back any credibility to us," she says. The problems pale against the long-term effects

of a dinner sport. "As a commentator, I don't talk about the judges anymore," says Marini. "It used to be that one person, like Le Gouge, held the balance of power. That's not the case anymore, and that's huge."

And what shouldn't be overlooked is that most skaters like the change, especially the ethical ranking system that lets them know privately what they did right and wrong. At the Canadian championships, the first step after the box and cry for many competitors was a computer screen in the hallway so they could check out the judges' report. Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon, the Canadian ice-dancing champions and a silver-medal threat in Turin, were on the verge of quitting the sport before the system was changed. "There was no clear explanation of why and how scores were happening," says Dubreuil. "At the 2001 Worlds in Germany, we skated three perfect programs, the best we've ever skated in a competition. And one mark was much lower. It was a heartbreak." Share rulings only reward change if someone is moved through the boards under the old system. The Code of Points has turned ice dance into a real competition. Buoyed by the changes, the couple set an entry-to-best season-ever, with two golds and a bronze so far on the world tour. "I think it's a year unarguably being the package of together," says Lauzon. "We're mentally and physically stronger, our choices for music that you're right, our choreography is stronger, everything is falling into place. The judging system just makes it easier to get the rewards."

For the voters (almost the voters) of Salt Lake, the raging debate over the Code of Points seems a bit of a sideshow. On the plus side, a 30-second choral-voiced tour stop in California, Pelletier says the system is an 80 percent, but a necessary one. The ISU needed to clean the house, not change the bedding, he says. "You can have the greatest system in the world, but if one is the credibility of the people administering it, you're there." Salt and Saltie, his new bride, skated on the same tour as their gold medallists in Salt Lake, Berezhnaya and Sikharulidze, with whom they have become good friends, although they never discuss the scores. "The results for the professional athletes are still good," says Pelletier, or says he understands why the amateurs are loathing. "I don't watch wrestling because it's bad. Why would anybody watch figure skating if they think it's the same way?" Salt and Pelletier will be touring working for NBC next month, watching skaters from the side lines. They hope the Olympics will be an important milestone on the long road back to credibility for the sport they love, but, as he puts it, "I'm going to do some time, people." While he agrees that the Code of Points has led some of the "soul" out of performances, he's optimistic that the competitive fire will soon burn again. Berezhnaya, today's problems pale against the long-term effects



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# A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Hockey's a tough sport, and nice guys do finish last. Wayne Gretzky knows this. So he picked Todd Bertuzzi.

BY DON THOMAS GATEHOUSE • Let's review the facts: Todd Bertuzzi may well be a caring father, long-suffering, and an absolute peach as a teammate, but there's ample evidence that he's not nice man. Off the ice, he possesseth the kind of personality that could possibly be scaring for the chairman, starry, avaricious, insatiable. On a, he's no nice fellow, 216-lb. scif of malvolence with a history of violence. His 2002 Stanley Cup-winning attack on Steve Moore left the Colorado Av-

lites centre with a broken neck, ended career, national headlines, and cemented hockey's image—sooths the冰界, at least—as bone-crushing, and, according to 464 NHL games, like also has 912 points, 214 of them goals, and is considered one of the top power forwards in the sport.

It's because in bri-maniacal spirit, Bertuzzi is like a slice of bacon. A grunting boisterous in the corners, an inimitable

object in front of the crease, and most importantly to the coaches and GMs who have never had taken, blunted soft-hands, like some marbles from the past couple of weeks. In an 8-1 Vancouver rout over the New York Islanders on Jan. 16, "Big Bert" scored three times from the slot, unbothered defenders like Hong Kong racing Model-T around them Square. Two nights later against Pittsburgh, he spent the better part of a power play zipping with a Penguin defenceman at the edge of the net, curving past the space he needed to snap home a one-on-one pass as part of a 6-2 Canuck win. Even in games where he doesn't make the score sheet, he can set the tone. On Jan. 8, in the second period against Calgary, Vancouver had a 3-1 lead, but disallowed because Bertuzzi was adjudged to have bumped Mikka Kiprusoff inside the crease. When play resumed, he promptly set up another screen, this time for the Blue on Solo scored again, as Bertuzzi, in typical Lahey-Byring, the dimmed style, pointed at the net and screamed at the officials: "Is that me in? Is that me in?" The Canucks went on to win 4-3 in overtime, their first victory of the season against the then division-leading Flames.

When the NHL mounted hearings last August at the end of the labour lockout, his not parsimony for shaming Moore's rat race was no game and the future of U.S.\$100,000 in salary it sparked a round of contemporary columns and outraged editorialists. The heads just got louder with his December selection to the Canadian Olympic team in Torino. "Twenty-five-year-old young men. And then there's Todd Bertuzzi," Jack Todd wrote in the Montreal Gazette. "You have no wonder how Wayne Gretzky & Co. could possibly add [him] to any team that it's supposed to represent this country or the game of hockey." Defenders of the 30-year-old over-explained that his past abounding pranks for this violent transgression. In 2000, he pleaded guilty to a charge of assault causing bodily harm, involving a conditional discharge, a year's probation and 80 hours of community service. Moore, who continues to suffer after effects from the attack, is pursuing a multimillion-dollar civil suit. The ultimate hard man has even made a couple of viral public plea for forgiveness. "In a film believe us second chance, and if we're going to go through life not giving anyone second chances, what kind of life are we going to live?" He asked at the U.S.-Canada training camp in Aug. 9. "People make mistakes in life. Unfortunately, you under the microscope and on TV when my mistake happened."

It's like a parody of the clichés other manufacturers about discarded vagrants or rebels who are finally willing to come out of the

icebox centre with a broken neck, end career, national headlines, and cemented hockey's image—sooths the冰界, at least—as bone-crushing, and, according to 464 NHL games, like also has 912 points, 214 of them goals, and is considered one of the top power forwards in the sport.

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COURTESY OF THE CANADIAN PRESS; LENOVO; AP/WIDEWORLD; AP/WIDEWORLD; AP/WIDEWORLD



STEVE MOORE: The 23-year-old NHLer would have taken Bertuzzi for the 2002 World Cup of Hockey if he'd been suspended

managers and lay down their arms. Perhaps what Canada's tortured hockey will really need is a truth and reconciliation committee. If so, it's start with the obvious admission—most of this country would happily beat the grandmothers for glorie in exchange for another gold medal. When the puck drops again against Italy on Feb. 15, the Olympic hockey tournament will be all that's missing for the next 11 days. A slow start, like in 2002, will produce an epidemic of whining and head-scratching. A frantic British (ignorant—see Lake) will give you a grape, and then culture an apoplectic excess for haggling strangers and dawdling in the stores.

"If you win the gold medal, then it's never and gauntlet," says Kevin Lowe, Edmonton Oilers GM and Team Canada's assistant executive director. The Olympic brain trust—Wayne Gretzky, Lowe, coach Pat Quinn, and their assistants—spends months mulling over the choices, knowing that only one or some will satisfy the fans and critics. "There's no bad guy to worry about, no bad agenda," says Lowe. "It's about packaging a team to win."

For fish Lake, the philosophy was to take the 23 best available NHL players and, on the

SHRETTES would have taken Bertuzzi for the 2002 World Cup of Hockey if he'd been suspended

team and its coaching staff. And although he's amazingly good at a poker game, that's only good enough for 16th place in the scoring than the newly established NHL. A bit of a stretch, admits Lowe, given that the Oilers GM would have ranked the Canuck wingers as one of the top three forwards in the world. "That's already not the case this season," Bertuzzi will be wearing the maple leaf in Torino, likely on the basis of his past prowess, his present ability to make things happen on the ice when it counts. "It's very difficult to handle because of his strength and size. He can cause space for himself down low, hang onto the puck and make the play," says Lowe.

Good citizenship didn't really factor into the decision. Lowe suggests it might have been different if he was picking the team a year ago, but Gretzky made it clear a year ago that he would select Germans for the World Cup instead. If he wasn't that, under suspension by the NHL—less than six months after the attack on Moore. The hockey world has moved on, even if the press, and some of the public, haven't. "There's more social consequences and political consequences these days. And he's a little less barbaric than it was, and those are good things," says Lowe. "My own personal thoughts are that he'd paid the price."

It may not be right, but when it comes to hockey, it has long been permissible to cheer for the villain. And that's going to change between now and the gold medal game on Feb. 26. Back in August, winning his 23rd Canada cup and pat, Bertuzzi pledged to be a "better person on the ice." Maybe that explains his crudely amiable to the arena, though it's showing signs of snapping out of his funk. It's a price for Steve Moore and his family, but most Canadians really don't care what the looking outside this close to the past. They just want him to be as nasty as an avaricious in Torino. "We know that the best team doesn't always win in hockey, but that's good for both last."

JOSEPH PARISI/ASSOCIATED PRESS; AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE



MEAN GREEN: Is there any doubt that if Rochester's Richard, Mark Messier and Robbie Clark were in their prime, they'd be on Team Canada?



It's worth noting that the NHL rewrite the rule book this season to crack down on head-gouging and, not fighting. Hockey has become a violent sport, and many of its greatest heroes had minor unsafe at least as safe as today's. When Boston's "Tucker" Redden was suspended for the remainder of the 1995 season, sparking the famous Massacre in '95, it was because he dibbled Boston's Hill Dip over the head repeatedly with his stick. These days, however, he'd do the same using no hands, like Steve Moore, and it comes with a price. Part of the legend of the 1992 Summit Series against the Soviets—the so-called "Miracle on Ice"—was that Bob Clarke deliberately injured Valeri Kharlamov, head-chopping his handle at the winging of countryman Igor Larionov. Mike Messier, then in one of hockey's consummate leaders when the New York Rangers won his third number earlier this month, was suspended more than a half-dozen times, including 16-game penalty for breaking the shoulder of Calgary defenceman Jamie Macoun in 1984-85, and 18 games during the 1988-89 season for knuckling a loose of their Stars' teeth with a stick. (Gretzky and Lowe, of course, were immune.) If the toads, Clarke and Messier were all in their prime right now, would there be any question about whether they "deserve" to be on Team Canada?

It may not be right, but when it comes to hockey, it has long been permissible to cheer for the villain. And that's going to change between now and the gold medal game on Feb. 26. Back in August, winning his 23rd Canada cup and pat, Bertuzzi pledged to be a "better person on the ice." Maybe that explains his crudely amiable to the arena, though it's showing signs of snapping out of his funk. It's a price for Steve Moore and his family, but most Canadians really don't care what the looking outside this close to the past. They just want him to be as nasty as an avaricious in Torino. "We know that the best team doesn't always win in hockey, but that's good for both last."

JOSEPH PARISI/ASSOCIATED PRESS; AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

# FORGET ABOUT SID THE KID

Meet Meghan Agosta. She's the slick teenage phenom who is headed for Turin.

BY KEN MCGOWEN • It's 3:30 in the second period in Father Doreil Bauer Arena in Calgary. Canada's national women's hockey team has finished its hibernation this chill December afternoon and is reacquainting an unusually rowd crowd against the towering Swedish national team. Meghan Agosta—the 16-year-old pride of Waterloo, Ont., and just maybe the female equivalent of Sid the Kid Crosby—seals for the Swedish goal. Team Canada's Caroline Ouellette erupts a slaphander on the power. Agosta, with a drift flick of her stick, tips the puck into the net for the go-ahead goal. Canada never looks back, winning 6-3.

It looks like a nice bit of luck, the way Agosta happened to be in the right place at the right time. Except the same thing happens a few days later at another Team Canada exhibition Agosta is there. And again, Agosta is at the crucial redrawing raffler for the winning goal. "She's the type of player where the puck goes in the net when you need it," says head coach Michael Ciriello of the youngest player on either of Canada's Olympic hockey teams. "These players are not special." So special that at her rocket season in the national team she's drafting it out with Hayley Wickenheiser—probably Canada's best ever women's player—for the role of leading scorer.

From this comes no trace of a surprise to Nata and Charlynn Agosta, who have been watching their daughter work such magic since her much from figure skating to a boy's junior national team at age 6. The score in her first game was something like 20-0. Nata recalls, with Meghan having panted 13 of the goals. "She was bawled to tears a parent revolt brewing in the stands, then hopped up a couple of notches to a higher level team. More often than not she's been the youngest player on every team since



EXPLANATION: "Some hockey players, the puck seems to follow them around."

"Some hockey players, the puck seems to follow them around," says Nata. "Meghan has the ability to do that."

**Agosta joined a boy's team at age 6. She was so good she had to be benched to quell a parental revolt.**

From path as they seek to repeat the magic of gold medal performances of four years ago in Salt Lake City. The team—curiously enough considering the team's executive director is one-time child prodigy Wayne Gretzky—have chosen experience above all else. As a result, several of the NHL's hot young blading, most notably a certifiably 18-year-old phenom like Crosby, won't make the flight to Turin

—when the ice rights on the national team kept a core of 13 players who was gold against their U.S. rivals in Salt Lake City, but they added a significant youth—men were seven players 25 or under who will make their Olympic debut. Among the exciting new forwards are Gillian Apps and Katie Weatherston, both 22, Sarah Patterson, 26, and Agosta. Yet Davidson demands only the the young stars are sharp to gain experience for future Olympics. "I just want the best players," she says.

What she and her fellow coaches seek is an explosive combo of talent, grit and poise—it is an art that can reach as high as the history and future of the women's game. Consider the legend forward. Doreen Grevatt, whose loss for the sport has been at least as great as all those Saturday nights ago as a lady dad watching her beloved Montreal Canadiens on the family TV. She was 15 before her dad's team to play on The Olympics, for women's hockey, didn't exist. She remembers 1992, her first world championships, the national team, and four years of another epoch—

"We didn't have to train, we just played once a week for fun," she says. "It wasn't serious the way it is now. That's why it's so fun to see the improvement in the women's game." An other vet, 31 year old Connie Campbell, says the wellspring of talent building up from the expanding women's minor hockey system has put everyone on notice. "We have young players coming in and I see the national team having more and more turnover from year to year," she says. "Playing for Canada for 10 or 15 years, I don't see that happening to much in the future. That's just the natural evolution of the game."

All things being equal, the increasing skill and legitimacy of women's hockey might carry at least some of the financial rewards of the men's game. Yet the base salary of Sidney Crosby when rookie NHL year—\$1,018,000, again apart from his multi-year endorsement worth millions—is more than any woman player can reasonably hope to earn during her entire career. In those Olympic years, more women play in leagues that offer little more than expense money, or as Agosta plans to, they play a hockey school trip in a women's education. At age 16, there are parallels between her life and Crosby's, coming peasant-style out of there, Agosta concludes with a grin. "It's always been different and probably it's always going to be different," says the son of the cornerstone of the men's game. "It didn't really bother me, Sidney Crosby is an awesome hockey player." There is, of course, Durkin, a mitigating factor when grown man player might pass one. She's going Crosby's way.

Agosta was 10 in 1998, the year that the dreams and ambitions of female players changed forever. That winter, Canadian women's hockey heroes like Campbell, Wickerham and Goyette played their hearts out for silver in Nagano, Japan, in the first ever women's Olympic hockey finale. The Olympic games represented a quantum leap in opportunity and sacrifice for a generation of girls—those now cracking the national team lineup. Agosta had a new goal, and with the stubbornness of a 10-year-old, she set out making it real. Over five years, she's missed her few commitments, too many dances, even her high school graduation, all for hockey.

And this is what she gave up part of the year, over 150 to get it out at a hockey camp at Niagara University in New York state. The camp was run by Margot Page, a former Canadian national team member, then the women's hockey coach at Niagara, and now an assistant coach of Canada's national team. "Oh my God," says Page, recalling this feisty little girl with explosive speed, soft hands and a magnetic attraction on the puck. "You just can't teach her," Page says. "I'd like to rule all the schools for her if she can't."

And yet... For her efforts that summer,



**1998 BLUES:** Gillian Apps (left), grandfather of Leah's legend, is part of a movement. Agosta received a certificate of achievement signed by her instructors. "It held the leadership and encouraging words would encourage others down on him. And it felt something like, for a job whose ambitions and abilities bared brighter than his. Nata pulled out the certificate in the sweet days after his death. "She learned she'd smile the next and was held up in their life and the words again, written all those years ago. "Unbelievable," he says. "How could they have known? At the bottom of the certificate, drawn in pen, are a tiny Maple Leaf, the Olympic rings, and one bold prediction: "See you in 2006," it says. ■

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# AN ICE QUEEN'S FIRE

Cindy Klassen is our best hope for multiple medals at this year's Games

BY KIRI WHALEY • It's hard time at the Calgary Olympic Oval, and Cindy Klassen is much seeking a conductor in an interview with Maclean's while demolishing two nearby home-made sandwiches. Like grows ever more intense this Olympic season for the 26-year-old Winnipegger, who ended her hockey trick the speed skating eight years ago and never looked back. She flew with Kali Lake City in 2002—under the radar as all but the speculating fraternity and the most long-tradition Dash nation. She promptly won Canada's first medal of the Games, although in the going, had her family even arrived in Italy. Parents Helga and Joko Klassen won't make that mistake twice—not with the ex-patination honed on their daughter for Yarn. They've booked two weeks in Italy.

Speed skaters, both the long and the intermediate distances, have generated an astounding 56 percent of all Canadian medals at the past 16 Winter Olympics. This year's team, an both branches of the sport, may be the most formidable yet. Of these athletes, Klassen, though you'd never hear so from her, may be the strongest of a gangster. That says plenty, considering that several teammates—including veteran sprinter Jeremy Whitham, with a record 17 career World Cup wins, multiple-Olympic medallist Clara Hughes, and rising talent Krenton Goss—have turned up to the international circuit. The Canadian Olympic Committee, unbolled by Klassen's stellar performance the past two years, says she has the potential to be the first Canadian to ever win four medals at a single Olympic Games.

"Going into this Olympic season is a lot different," says Cindy Klassen. For one thing, her house and two fourth-place finishes in Utah give her a new confidence. Now, she says, though you wouldn't know it from the scars remains of her second accident, "there's a lot more on my plate." The increased intensity, for media interviews and other gear and as a role she and her coach, Neil Marshall, of whom are acutely aware: "It's like anything else," says Marshall. "If you have a bit of a practice, then you'll be better at trying to cope with it when it comes."

Her mother sees a marked difference in her daughter in these Olympics, despite the added hype. "She seems extremely calm. She says she's not going to bed at night and racing every race over 10 times."

and she certainly didn't let things get in the way?

Klassen, in many ways, the polar opposite of her archrival, Germany's Anni Friesinger. Both are ferociously focused competitors. Klassen set, lost, then regained the 1,500 m world record in a thrilling series of World Cup duals with Friesinger last year. But while Klassen is modest, understated in



June 2005 was not after suffering severe injuries, she was a world single distance medallist

perspective that Whitham endures. In imagination, though, she's a true person. "She has a lot to let it out sometimes," says her mother. "She's a very gentle, quiet kind of person, but she's played all kinds of sports and an army in her right forearm. She lost a massive amount of blood. The injury threatened her career and, but for the quick response of coaches and staff, could have killed her. Even now, she has very limited movement in the hand and ring finger of her right hand, and little sensation of heat or cold.

Klassen has filled the accident "the best thing that happened to me during career. I gained a lot of perspective." Her mother, in identifying at the event was, doesn't disagree. "I was quite amazed at how well she took that," she says. "She was very intent to see what God had in store for her." Rather a lot, it might seem. Just four months later, rested and refreshed, she won two medals in the 2004 world single distance championships. The enforced break seemed to heighten her hunger to compete. As far as the fresh perspective, it only lightens the load of a race, though, Klassen is modest, understated in

The secret to success is no longer a secret.



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# Rope-a-dope

## Will a new regimen of stringent drug tests really clean up the Games?

**BY KEN MACPHERSON** • It would be flat out wrong to call Becky Scott a cynic. When Scott is—besides being Canada's queen of cross-country—charged the Canadian delegation to the Salt Lake City Games with a host of new rules, albeit one with anyt hing to do with anti-doping. Scott, the veteran Canadian member of the IOC and chairman of the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), says Scott can do the job part-time at the 2002 Games. Pound-for-pound, demanding proof increased a "race." A world of winds followed, but over time they also formed an iron alliance. "Beside you, a bronze medal," Pound says today. "It was the guys in suits who got us gold. We were working for exactly the same thing that she was, trying to have to have tangible evidence of the doping practice." Scott is now one of 12 international committee members on WADA's Athletes' committee. She's also Canada's namesake for a prestigious seat on the IOC, in a role that she says is "not to be taken." Are the two "proud pals" now? "Yeah," Scott says with a shrug, "he's friendly."

There was a time, it seems long ago now, when she actually believed in a "really clean sport."



**Don't hold your breath, says Becky Scott. 'There's still a long road ahead before we see a really clean sport.'**

Skating was as pure as the driven snow. How could you not feel like a sparrow? Law, of a sport that committed so much to her childhood vision in Revelstoke, Alta., and has defined her entire adult life? That heroic vision—a field of fair-minded competitors racing through snow-blasted forest and fields—began to melt away by 1995, when she learned of a famous competitor caught doping—secretly. "It was a surprise to me in the '90s," she admits, "but it was a racial strike at her overconfidence. Other doping scandals followed—especially for her, the two Russian women who beat her in the two-lap race in Utah. Their use of blood-booster erythropoietin caused the International Olympic Committee to strip them of their Olympic medals. All it took for Scott to see her right fulgird as the first data source on anti-doping rules, little more than 22 droning minutes of hearings.

If anyone doubts the IOC's resolve, look

at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City—besides being Canada's queen of cross-country charged the Canadian delegation to the Salt Lake City Games with a host of new rules, albeit one with anyt hing to do with anti-doping. Scott, the veteran Canadian member of the IOC and chairman of the Montreal-based World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), says Scott can do the job part-time at the 2002 Games. Pound-for-pound, demanding proof increased a "race." A world of winds followed, but over time they also formed an iron alliance. "Beside you, a bronze medal," Pound says today. "It was the guys in suits who got us gold. We were working for exactly the same thing that she was, trying to have to have tangible evidence of the doping practice." Scott is now one of 12 international committee members on WADA's Athletes' committee. She's also Canada's namesake for a prestigious seat on the IOC, in a role that she says is "not to be taken." Are the two "proud pals" now? "Yeah," Scott says with a shrug, "he's friendly."

Still, almost 10 years after Johnson's disgrace, the only certainty is that the cheating has grown more elaborate, as more and more stars to contend. Today's Olympians are less likely to confess to having used only if they were caught, but also during non-Olympic events and during training. There are even surprise visits to athletes' homes—a violation of privacy ranked

as serious as doping. Scott and Pound have been on a winning streak, though Pound (left)



BECKY SCOTT (left) AND SARAH BURKE (right) are members of the Athletes' committee.



PERFORMING HIGH JUMPS Scott's illusion of a field of fair-minded competitors began to melt away by 1995 when she learned of a blood-booster

use that would be considered intolerable almost anywhere outside the sporting world.

In Salt Lake City, Scott will face half again as many tests as were introduced in Utah. And, Pound hints, more will be arranged for substances that were previously undetectable. "Catching somebody in the act," he says, "has more of a deterrent effect than a quiet word going to the community: that there is a line for that test."

The list of banned substances and practices devised by WADA for international events in 2002 stretches 10 pages. It includes no-give-means groups of anabolic agents, hormones, blood boosters, stimulants, narcotics, even "recreational practices" of "gene doping." Coupled with WADA's list is a 15-page set of doping rules the IOC cleared for Salt Lake City. Medallists, many top division, and all who break Olympic and world records can expect to be tested. But any athlete, at any time during the Games, is subject to random demands for "biological samples" of urine or blood. An technique for detecting doping tests goes, so has the level of vigilance. The rules for urine collectors stretch rarely that a page, specifying the toilet's handle, the sun's position, and the illuminating view of the urinal's interior. "The athlete will be required to remove any clothing (at least pants to knees, shirt to mid-chest, and sleeves rolled

up) presenting the [observer's] direct observation of the urine sample leaving the athlete's body." If they're caught, in other words, she'll be with her pants down.

A lot happened in the years since almost a decade ago. In 1993, the Salt Lake City doping scandal, Canadian cross-country skier—notably fast and her friend and teammate Sarah Burke—moved reluctantly to the World Cup circuit. There are complex reasons for this. A strong partnership is required for Nordic skiing—an endurance sport heavily reliant on technique. Scott, 31, and Burke, 26, have clearly had their prime. Burke may be another cleaver, too. Perhaps for the last time in their long careers they are racing against a cleaner field.

"I have hope," says Scott. Burke and Scott add cautious agreement. "The more level the playing field, the better the chances are for people who come to the sites with equal preparation," says Scott. "I definitely think that has played a role in our success."

### OUT OF AFRICA: A DOWNHILL SKIER

Afrika's best female downhill skier could still make it to the Salt Lake City Games despite a knee injury. Sarah Baier-Mitterer, who is of both Argentinian and Swiss descent, had a 50 per cent chance of being able to compete in the Winter Olympics following surgery to a ligament tear during a December race. Last week she underwent arthroscopic surgery to repair the damage, and the will to keep her knee-sharing marathons in Italy or the weeks leading up to her event, the squat slopes

of the 2002 Games, remains.

By the end, Scott had been exposed to not an unprecedented neverland against an international field. But it wasn't just the warning that seemed to energize them. It lit their fire. It looked pure—the way racing must have seemed when they were kids themselves. The way it might get to be again.

ONE  
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BOOKS



## 'AERIAL SKIING IS LIKE WALKING OUT ON A CLIFF AND SEEING HOW CLOSE YOU CAN GET WITHOUT FALLING OFF. RIGHT NOW, I'M STILL A GOOD FOOT FROM THE EDGE.'—CANADIAN DEIDRA DIONNE

### 1. SKATING AROUND CITIZENSHIP RULES

Since the U.S. hasn't won a figure skating medal in pair-dance for 30 years, there was no way a little issue, like, say, an athlete's can citizenship, was going to ruin their chances. So when it became clear that the team's best hope was Canadian-born **TANITA ALIEK** and her American partner Ben Agosto, Congress swooped. The government hurried Belvoir's naturalization process (the papers were made official on Dec. 31), putting her way to "Team"—and, quite possibly, the podium.

**NORWEGIAN IS ON THE SAME SHIP** he was four years ago, when he won four gold medals in just nine days.

### 3. HOW COULD YOU NEED MORE SPEED?

At 45 racing down a sharp ledge and catapulting 360° through the air isn't enough. **JENNY ARDNER** competes in Finland's drag racing circuit. In fact, it was the *Siemens* championship in 2006. An individual Olympic medal in drag racing, however, has proven elusive for the 38-year-old Finn. (Alderson was a team member in Salt Lake City.) But with overall World Cup titles in 2004 and 2005, she should hand herself a medal of hardware.

### 2. NORWEGIAN HAS GOLO IN HIS SIGHTS

If he ever gets the last event next month, **BRIT HENN ANDRESEN** will become a 10-time gold medalist—the most decorated Olympian in history. Though it will require a herculean effort, anyway say theeyerold

in track in Koenigssee, Germany, in a world record 12.9 seconds. The "posturists" aren't a message to better out of the gate than Canadians. A lot of credit goes to Moysa, 27, the team's rookie bobsledder, who only took up the sport last fall after being recruited from the national rugby team. She's a natural, winning alternate to her first World Cup race, but says that life in the back of the sled track soon got her used to "I uncovered I have a backbone," says the Samoan. "It's funny. I tended up with a few bruises, but the more you study the track you learn how to hold your body so you don't get injured around as much."

### 4. IT'S A LITTLE ROUGH BACK THERE

**CROATIAN JENIKH ASTRUC** is peaking in the perfect time. The 24-year-old acquired his first World Cup downhill title this

month and became the first woman to claim wins in all six disciplines. Kostelic—whose career includes 24 World Cup wins and three Olympic golds—will likely take some more hardware to her homeland—now known for its skiing prowess, with raw

### 6 & 7. A FROSTY RELATIONSHIP

And rumors that they can't stand one another. German folk legends **WILHELM BRAECKER** and **ELISHE ZETTO** have dominated their sport—winning each of the last six major championships. In fact, the German has swept the medals in Salt Lake City and has not been beaten in a World Cup race since 1997. Kraus and Oros, who are former roommates, had a falling out a few years ago. Although they've cut down on the number of public displays of dissent for one another, jealousy can the power struggle continue. "Yeah for it

when the pair are starting beside each other with their racquets

### 8. EXPECT A BIG HARVEST THIS YEAR

**SWEDISH ANDRESEN** lives very different lives. In one, he's a renowned snowboarder—the reigning world parallel giant slalom champ. In the other, a blueberry farmer in Yol-Merri, Que. But right now, snowboarding is in season, and Anderson, 30, is focused on improving past Olympic disappointments (he finished 14th in '98 and 20th in '02), by riding the wave momentum of an unheralded place World Cup ranking. The tour can wait until after the closing ceremonies.

### 11. HE COULD FIT A SKI IN THAT MOUTH

The only thing as big as **ROBB MILLER**'s talent is his mouth. During a recent interview in '04 Miller, the American, implied that he does *drugs*. Team officials and sponsors balked, and Miller apologized. "They just don't know this 33-year-old's talent—it's on par to win five medals, which is something no Alpine skier has ever done in one Olympics. But Miller claims that's not his goal. "I am not trying to win gold medals," said Miller, who was his favorite whistled-out dead last in Calgary. The "Snow Leopard" would be the first Winter Olympian from another country to pass as good as not top ten entries." He

themselves. "Whatever the case, he will be the talk of the

### 12. THE ROCK'S TOP STONE THROWER

**ROBB GROSS** finished up his business administration degree at McDaniel University last year, but says he won't ready for the "real world." So the St. John's curler ended up not a but with the family construction business and focused on getting his start into the Olympics. It paid off. And now, as Team Canada's skip, Gross has plenty of real-world pressure on his 25-year-old shoulders. His team, from left, Jamie Korab, Ryan Howard and Mark Nichols, favored to win, will have to dispense of some tough competition—especially Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. "Canada is by far the deepest country," says Gushue. But Gross doesn't realize that the top teams from other countries are just as good as not top ten entries." He

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induction stove  
P. 94

**help**  
You are not a  
panicking bag  
P. 94



**BY ANNE KIRKSTON** • In the fragile pantheon of Canadian fashion, the Montreal designer Marie Saint Pierre has carved another in the shrinking women's arena. She is collected by those who

Some Pierre's fans, making her a favorite of Ritz-Carlton's most recent residents. Michelle Jean chose Marie Saint Pierre—a dramatic flurry of crinkled, ruched black layers—for her first major social engagement as Governor General of Canada. And Pierre also played an indelible role in the kerfuffle surrounding this drama originally commissioned, then rejected, by Jean for her inaugural, the designer, Yves Saint Laurent's Mayoral Inauguration. Pierre gave

former general Adrienne Clarkson an international Saint Pierre to wrap up her 1999 inaugural dress—a long, soft blue, A-line with a crossed-over front.

Today 21 years brewing the Canadian fashion scene, the 44-year-old Saint Pierre has established a reputation as an exuberant free-thinker who eschews trends: "Timid pieces are very uninteresting," she says from her Montreal studio. "When you buy something, you've got to be something." More radically in an industry where offerings are "only women friendly," in the words of the American designer Michael Kors, Saint Pierre is celebrated as a designer who creates for women of all ages and sizes.

One need only look outside the borders of the continent—from the superjoli blushed to the superjoli Julie Pystek, French-Canadian actress Geneviève Bujold to knockout Raynaud lingerie star

## DARE TO WEAR SAINT PIERRE

Devotees of this Montreal designer are practically a cult. They know they're buying works of art.

Same Pierre's fame, making her a favorite of Ritz-Carlton's most recent residents. Michelle Jean chose Marie Saint Pierre—a dramatic flurry of crinkled, ruched black layers—for her first major social engagement as Governor General of Canada. And Pierre also played an indelible role in the kerfuffle surrounding this drama originally commissioned, then rejected, by Jean for her inaugural, the designer, Yves Saint Laurent's Mayoral Inauguration. Pierre gave

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**Michael Jean chose to wear Marie Saint Pierre for her first major social engagement as Governor General**

mais Bleeth, from the singer Diana Ross to the publisher Louise Delage.

Her designs appear on red carpets both in Canada and abroad. Rebecca Jenkins has worn her in the Cannes, Diane Kruger to last year's César Awards in Paris. These new women, however, are few, who can pay upwards of \$500 for a jacket, \$300 for pants and \$900 for a coat—prices that would be considered bargain basement now in most "designer" stores.

That Saint Pierre's following is largely French stems in part from her limited exposure in English Canada. But there's more to it: two moments of Canadian fashion. "There's a daring to her designs, a feeling you're wearing something special," says Christiane Clément, Pierre's stylist. "English Canada doesn't appreciate that as much."

Margaret MacMillan, the author of *Pearl* and professor of Trinity College at the University of Toronto, is also a fan. "Every

Margaret Atwood's *Servant* to explain how Saint Pierre's clothing should be worn from the extensive Canadian elements.

**M**arie Saint Pierre grew up in a small Montreal in an artistically vibrant household. Her father, Christopher Christie, a radiologist, collected modern art. Jean-Paul Riopelle was his best friend. Her mother, Sylvie Saint Pierre, shopped like a queen in Paris, attending in the 1970s soft jazz from André Courrèges and soft velvety Jean-Paul Gaultier—when the new wave of Japanese designers—whose experimentation with softness inspired Saint Pierre.

After obtaining a diploma in fashion design from LaSalle College in 1986, she went to study architecture, believing fashion not to be a stable career. "Family values" forced her to return. Unable to find a dual





MICHAEL JACKSON is, arguably, the polar opposite of pop history. He's the Kerr black star to become his own lucrative white cover version.

## Starts off dark, ends up very pallid

This author proves she just doesn't have the stomach for all the Jacko ickiness

BY MARK STEWART

Years ago, Lee Strickland, the dog-eared icon of New York gossip culture, posed a short interview involving Hilton. Strickland's forthcoming biography of Anna Turner (Ms. Turner was the legendary singer of the silver screen and hit; Rosemary was then five years old) ends with the New York Times sentence at the most obvious高潮 of the former: But, when you make your living from name dropping, it's not of ways to stay dropping them in the right order past Ms. Turner, it had to do with it to write a bio of Liza, though the following day he found some words of encouragement scrawled in lipstick on the glass of his office door, apparently from Ms. Turner herself.

But times change, and now, when one reads of a new book about Michael Jackson by a cold-blooded New York Times cultural critic, it would be a frosty reader who assumed it was merely a mistake. Naturally, as a distinguished woman of letters, Margo Jefferson is not writing mainly on the wackiness of Michael (she has an obvious affection for the wackiness thereof). Hence, the title Margo Jefferson, *On Michael Jackson*. Not only, of course, *reservoir*, ladies are known to have assumed that position through Mr. Jackson (wearing a surgical mask over his sagging mask) was present at the birth of his children, whether he was also there at the conception remains a matter of conjecture. His two sons, incidentally, are both called after Michael. In contrast, *reservoir* Jackson avoided the name and named his own son *Jeromey*.

Whoops, there I go lapsing into *Entertainment Weekly* fascinating facts. Likewise, Ms. Jefferson is *On Michael Jackson* in the sense of a pedagogically scholarly monograph. A handful of thematic essays, the book is very small and very slim. If it were one of Michael's friends, it would be the young Macaulay Culkin rather than the waddly

### FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT...FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Author *On Michael Jackson* Lee Strickland's *Michael Jackson* (Little, Brown), award-winning Mexican writer Teresa Flores has found a novel (and amazing) way to satirize the many stars and its urge to constantly control our behavior. He travels the world consuming banned food and drink—Norwegian sausages, stinky cheese in France, Spanish tortillas (that's tortillas in garlic stew). Most strangely of all, Flores uses strategies borrowed from Singapore.



in Joan Ganz, *Daedalus*, Milton, Shakespeare and Sophocles. Or is the derelict prose of Newsworld pure: "Was that another use of power/money/Guru's wretched song of imperceptibility?"

For all his wrangled songs, it's the imperceptibility of Michael Jackson that fascinates Let's take it as read that the default mode of a celebrity is serial. Why wouldn't it? Michael wants us to constantly except in respect of their achievements. For example, a couple of years back, Jacko visited Britain accompanied by Ozzie, his 12-year-old boy who came first in a Michael Jackson look-alike contest in Norway. If you checked into the Saalbach Ecoo Lodge with a prepubescent look-alike wearing matching silver gloves and surgical mask, the gal at the front desk would give you the fish eye and buzz the house detective. But as the *Daedalus* in London it's not a problem—if you're a pop star.

There are some rare exceptions to the celebrity we imperceptible rule by the time I enter Frank Shourds, no one had noticed him as a nearly 200-lb commodity yet he was the most obvious superstar you could imagine—stable, grounded, real friends, three kids who all looked out chagrin and well balanced, several wives all of whom speak very highly of him, a domineer of the one-night stands. But, other than that, the *Aladdin* girls are the latter day equivalent of Mod King Lulu of Bawaria or the loopy Ottoman sultans, the ones it's never safe to leave alone with sharp implements.

With sharp implements. Certainly, mere royalty can no longer expect such deference. A visitor from planet Zorgo who caught, say, ABC's *Brainy* (a world's silliest game show) and says just like ABC had been viewing the Prince of Wales would have no doubt which was the royal personage. What Troy (as usual) Michael Jackson being "your mom," I think of my friend Dan Shady, lyrists of Bone Free and Diamonds Are Forever and also Jackson's florid uncle, Bob. Dan's married to his childhood sweetheart Shady—they grew up together in the East End of London—and he's famously one of the most envious in showbiz. Michael used to go around and tell that their pad in Hollywood and Shady would partake in a summa cum laude and Michael would make some feeooked out observation and Troy would respond with one of his old London music-hall gags and they'd play another with Dan's teenage son. And you realize that, in the end, even for the most famous and thoroughly damaged celebrities, weakness is a choice.

Ms. Jefferson, in her search for meaning, does not slant on long or lousy ratios, though. Jackson's friendship with and increasing financial dependence on the godlike warlords of the House of Saudi would certainly justify her compassion. Instead, she becomes more thoroughly through-and-through like *Frankenstein*, "a tour of some of those 'fragrances of human'—P.T. Barnum, Tom Cruise, the Khan of Korshak, Sir James Birrell and Peter Pan." Of course, these references don't require that much of an archæological excavation. Jacko has been cheerfully upfront about his attraction with Birrell and Peter Pan, and the author's strategy to take him at his word. And, in doing so, she rewards you that Jackson is much about *show* as *illusion*, even at his peeks—the Thriller videos, the decades back—he was usually an artful entangler of pop culture power the boxer has the Rose gloves, the Sgt. Pepper uniforms... Surely the only thing odder than living in a fantasy world is living

in a second hand fantasy. Neverland.

Indeed, that may be the only real "significance" in Michael Jackson's degeneration. The release of *Thriller*—the world's all-time biggest selling album—marked the spring of big-time universal youth culture and poor Jackson became the living embodiment of pop's paradox, especially gigan-size and eternally infantile. After *Thriller*, dad was considered a flip, though what wouldn't he? (Jackson's weirdness symbolizes anything, it's the mystery of an industry where selling 25 million copies makes you *last*. While Michael was withdrawn to look like Shirley Temple and Sonny Davis Jr., you could argue that, in fact, he's the perfect shorthand for pop history as splendid nonsense. Little Redhead and Pat Boone, he's the first black star to become his own lucrative white cover version.

That's what happens to Margo Jefferson's *A-list* celebs are latter-day equivalents of the loopy Ottoman sultans, the ones not safe to leave alone with sharp implements

## BESTSELLERS

COMPILED BY DAVID BROWNSTEIN

Title	Author	Last week
1. <i>THE LIGHTHOUSE</i> by P.D. James	P.D. James	1,110
2. <i>BLIND SPORTS</i> by Edie Baskin	Edie Baskin	0
3. <i>THE ON VINYL COM</i> by Dan Brown	Dan Brown	4,200
4. <i>THE SICK</i> by John Ratzenberger	John Ratzenberger	3,100
5. <i>THREE DAY ROAD</i> by Joseph Boyden	Joseph Boyden	0
6. <i>THE PENITENT</i> by Margaret Atwood	Margaret Atwood	3,800
7. <i>THE TIME IN BETWEEN</i> by David Benjamin Rabe	David Benjamin Rabe	0
8. <i>A FORTRESS IN CHINA</i> by David Gilmore	David Gilmore	1,100
9. <i>KNIFE OF DREAM</i> by Ishmael Jones	Ishmael Jones	10,300
10. <i>A BREATH OF SPLEEN AND ANEMES</i> by Diana Gabaldon	Diana Gabaldon	0

New fiction

Title	Author	Last week
1. <i>MY FADING LITERACY</i> by James Peppi	James Peppi	4,140
2. <i>THE YEAR OF MINGLING THINKING</i>	By Jason Collett	7,000
3. <i>THE GREAT WAR FOR CIVILIZATION</i>	By Robert Fisk	4,170
4. <i>PERFECTIMPAIRS</i>	By Steven G. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	11,100
5. <i>PISTOLAR</i> by Tony Just	Tony Just	0
6. <i>TALK TO THE HAND</i> by Lynne Truss	Lynne Truss	6,300
7. <i>TEACHER-MAN</i> by Frank McCourt	Frank McCourt	0
8. <i>UNFOLDED SPHERES</i> by Alan Bennett	Alan Bennett	10,300
9. <i>THE BESIDE BOOK OF BIRDS</i> by George Sibley	George Sibley	4,000
10. <i>THE LOST PAINTING</i> by Jonathan Harr	Jonathan Harr	1,000

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY WEISS/20/20; STYLING BY KATHY GIBSON; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY CHERYL HARRIS, WITH THE HAIR AND MAKEUP, HAIR STYLING AND MAKEUP

## Triple Axels and teetering ankles

Low-rung stars wreak havoc with toe picks in a figure-skating reality show

**BY SHARON DIBBLE** "There's a certain level of chaos," admits Kurt Browning as he tells about *FIG TV*, a new reality show, *Skating with Celebrities* (March 14), which pits six Olympic skaters with low-to-mid-level celebs ("I mean, like!"), Browning is, after all, one of figure skating's most showboated stars. And his partner in this competition is the former-pepsi singer Debbie Gibson. The show also features walking punchlines: Diane "Dadie just" Coates (Paul Shaffer) and Todd "Child Star Gone Wrong" Bridges (Def Leppard). Skated. If the reality TV industry goes something like this—The Amazing Race and *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* are the clear acts, while The Bachelor, The Jersey and Fair Fairer are the slightly tackier—there's skating with Celebrities (but its precursor, *Dancing with the Stars*) fits in the middle. "I'm just happy nobody's made to look foolish," says Browning, 39. "We're not making them as a house and saying you have to eat that or you have to lose. We're made for a little bit, but we know that was going to happen. You're trying to learn to figure skate and you fall. But I feel Bridges—that's funny."

Burns out, but's right. Bridges can't do a Salchow to save his life, and his skates and attempts to balance on ice are both laughable and endearing. But it's hard not to cringe when he lands in the corners and says, "Whatcha talkin' 'bout?" And there's something unsettling about how skating uses him the way dancing with the stars uses rapper Master P—to project diversity and uncool, while revelling in its glossiness and cool, in a spandex cowboy getup. Still, the actor formerly known as *Willie* might be the breakout star if the judges find him more than enough to keep around—he certainly is capable of laughing at himself. He and his pants-wearing, U.S. pants-chomping team mates, might just pass as enough "artsy" points

to make up for their dismal "technical" ones.

Unlike *Dancing with the Stars* and the *Idol* franchise, viewers don't get a visit on *Skating with Celebrities*—it's up to Dorothy Hamill and her cohorts, veteran judges Sir John Nucks and former *judge* Mark Lanz.

But what the audience sees in contrast is quite in flux: "The danger factor is high," says Browning, now a pro skater who lives in Toronto with his ballerina wife and son. "There is blood, there are stitches, there are ligaments twisted—people do get hurt." (Remember, *Dee's* Lloyd Bridges is an Olympic medalist with lots of blood vessels, who's paired with across-the-sea Debbie Bridges.)

**There is blood, there are stitches, there are ligaments twisted—people do get hurt'**

Success (Ruffly the Vampire Slayer), has also experienced the painful skater's equivalent of mid-life crises—saying no to their partners. "She's kicked me in the shin with her pads," he says, "and a couple of times in the private. But I dropped her a couple of times too." Gaining the congruence, Browning thought Bridges and U.S. pair-champion John Zimmerman had an advantage. "I assumed that they would be doing cooler stuff than we were doing, because they're big strong guys and they fit for a living." Browning admits he's too weak to have Gibson above his head, but the other pair is in far

more, well, choreographed and rhythmic.

Thomas, Baker and Swanson, and Bridges and Meiss all seem to truly enjoy being partners, laughing and supporting each other through the good performances and the bad. Plus skater Jim Bobbiens and Olympic skater Brian Jenner, the older couple at 66 and 54, are inspiring and charming—they're best friends since the 1976 Olympics. Meiss, though, considerate Coates and Nancy Kerrig are an unapologetic—affectionately trying to match her skates with figure skating. And while Canadian-born, L.A.-based TV personality Al Ries, Barron (the NFL bandit) and couple/pairs champion Zimmerman are by far the most beautiful and talented—Baker's skates and the was 19—they have more charm than skill. They are the liabilities to win. Or to choke (even older).

If this is popular in Germany with the *Sturm*, it could return instant to a sport that's waned in popularity since the judging scandal four years ago, giving us a moment for this year's Games. Or could further degrade competitive figure skating. Easier, 41, says he needed an advantage. "Bridie and I landed on a good note, no regions, Olympic medal, world title, whatever. I wondered if this would hurt my career." But it was Browning who convinced him to go for it. "She said, 'In 15 years when you're 55, you'll be an old ass going up and down to do it,'" recalls Baker. "It's not like Iabelle and I are going up there and we're both 50." That being with *Star* Oldie, it could happen. ■



### THE MUSIC BIT... ACCORDING TO TV

On the new show *Love Monkey*, Canadian Ben Gershman plays a record label A&R rep who cares about the music, not the money ("frightening"). In this case, art is really bad music—because for every bad band you hear on the radio, there are a million worse bands trying to get on the radio. And "iTunes Rockers" (Prada, Akon, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell) were back making snarky comments on American Idol—singing, money, not music, reigns.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY D. STONE

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THE BUDAPEST FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA capped a North American tour with a concert in Toronto this past weekend.

## There's something about Budapest

Finally, an orchestra that doesn't have that homogeneous 'international' sound

BY JAMES Z. WEISBERG / Music lovers often complain that all orchestras sound alike these days. Orchestral musicians are proficient but lack the national and regional characteristics that used to define the way musicians played; does today's New York Philharmonic really sound that different from the Berlin Philharmonic? But some orchestras are reviving the ideal of a truly distinctive style. One of these is the Budapest Festival Orchestra, under conductor Iván Fischer, which capped a North American tour with a concert concert in Toronto.

Fischer co-founded the Budapest Festival Orchestra in 1981. While Hungary has produced many of the best-known conductors in the world—including George Szell, Ferenc Fricsay and Georg Solti—its orchestras did not have much of an international reputation. Fischer's orchestra has changed that; it was recently described by a London publication as "one of the world's top five orchestras" and in recordings have won various international awards.

Whereas most orchestras just sound like proficient groups of musicians, regardless of nationality, we seem to be witnessing particularly Hungarian about the Budapest Festival Orchestra's sound and style. Robert Morrison, music critic for the London *Times*, summed it up when he wrote: "Twenty years ago, one might have attributed this vivacity and cocked-spring vivacity to their collective youthfulness. Just now there is no other explanation: they are Hungarians."

Fischer thinks there is something to the idea that the Budapest Festival Orchestra is a uniquely Hungarian group. The intensity with which it is informed by the Hungarian musical temperament, which he describes as "emotionally highly charged. Carrara, a national tradition much for a career musical way of expression, suggesting the co-

unison feeling. Hungarians don't know how to suppress their extreme feelings. They don't have that mechanism."

To create a new Hungarian orchestra that meets international standards, Fischer implemented a combination of old-style playing and playing with new-style management techniques. He picked the best young players from other Hungarian orchestras, and created personnel flexibility by giving players two-year contracts; shorter than most orchestral musicians. Tom Fischer says, "we're an idealistic division of the founding members, in order to maintain the high quality and

**Hungarians don't know how to suppress their extreme feelings. They don't have that mechanism.**

idealism of the orchestra. They know that all their life they have to be at the edge of their seat and give a little extra, which is usually not demanded under normal circumstances."

The Budapest Festival Orchestra has been described as a mixture of the great central European orchestras of the mid-20th century. For one thing, it sounds different from most modern orchestras. The strings are less over-toned than we expect from big Western orchestras, and with relatively restrained silences. Violin solos have a raw energy and pattern of gypsy fiddles. The brass are gruff and dark-toned, the woodwinds have a biting,

**ROSAHNE CASH... HAS SOMETHING TO SAY**

*It was a black Cadillac there you are / Everybody was talking / but they don't have much to say / it was a black sky of rain made of it / It's / New ones of us gets to go to heaven / new ones to stay here in hell / Now it's a lonely world, guess it always was / minus you and me and I / It was a black Cadillac like the one you used to drive / Now you never always calling that wheels turns up your life — Black Cadillac, written for her father, Johnny Cash.*









## RITA KATHLEEN TUCKETT

1905-2005

## From the Blitz to the backwoods to the big screen. She was petite, 'but she could command attention.'

Rita Kathleen Tuckett (left, in 1968) was born on Jan. 30, 1905, in Wansorth, England, a London borough near the River Thames. Her mother, Daisy, who had many sisters all named after flowers, emigrated to South Sea, Manx, Isle, for work when Rita was a toddler. Charles, her father, sailed on west and used to raise Rita. Eventually, she would have a half-sister in London, Nesta, and half-brothers, Denis and Raymond, in the Isle.

Rita excelled in elementary school, and won a scholarship to a high school in nearby Warwick. She studied theater, and appeared in a small vaudeville company run by her music teacher. "I discovered then I could run on, I could make audience listen when I spoke," Rita recalled. But acting was considered innocent work for women. So Rita studied art in Birmingham and Craydon College. She became an acclaimed artist, whose paintings and sketches were shown in England, and later throughout North America and Europe. Rita taught art at a private school. "A lot of the Irish had more pocket money than she ever had," says daughter Anne Boulby, and most were taller. Rita was petite, with wavy, dark hair, high cheekbones and blue eyes. "But she could command attention."

When Rita was in her 20s she married Lincoln Caulkley in 1940, during the London Blitz. Rita gave birth to their son, Bruce, who was safely tucked in the hospital basement with other newborns. Six years later, Bruce became a piano teacher for Canada with Bruce. His child piano teacher had done so years before, and helped Rita letters, along with *Assar of Green Gables* books. Rita had also kept in touch with Daisy, and her half-sister. Few knew what he cause of Lincoln—Rita just said was brain relationships.

Once in Canada, Rita (right, in '98, at first on an isolate insurance plan outside the Sea. She didn't like the cold or bugs, and had bad reactions to black flies. So she loved the rugged northern beauty. She shacked in the 1950s by wearing slacks because, she says, slacks were impractical for climbing through the bush to port. Rita became involved in local theater, raising curtains and sets, and acting, and directing like theater manager plays, including *The Hostess* with Academy Award-winner Lila Kedrova, the wife of local director Richard Howard. Rita won Queen's awards in north east Ontario (a honour) for her roles in *The Prince of Mafeking* (1958), and *Padfoot*, for which she played an aging pianist. "She played that so well it put me to tears. She did it without her teeth! That was the kind of dedication she had, the contrast herself to the role," says Harry Lumsden, now the president of the Stratford Shakespeare. Rita encouraged him to audition for her first play in 1968.

"Supporting the young actors was part of the teacher in her," he says, which is why she co-founded Studio 5, a youth theater at the Sea, as well as a district arts council. Rita also hosted two local TV art shows, one for children.

When Rita was 65, she moved to Stratford, Ont. She left behind Lewis Tietz, a partner and painter whom she'd married in 1935. They loved and understood each other, but "they were happily separated." There was things she wanted to do," says Anne. Born in 1930 out of another relationship, and married after the Green Gables girl. Starting in 1974, Rita performed and directed with the Stratford Little Theatre, and sketched in the park the faces of characters she star in Shaw Festival productions such as *The Devil's Disciple*. In 1978, Rita moved to Toronto, and appeared in Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* for around 10 years in the 1980s and '90s, she also did commercials and movies, including *Love with Mrs. Ulmann*, *The Dead Zone* with Christopher Walken, *Stephen King's* *Carrie*, *Storm of the Century*, *Twinkie* with John Goodman, and *Disney's* *One Magic Christmas*, in which Rita played Mrs. Claus. She also was a mom in *Norman Jewison's* *Amnesiac of God*, with Jane Fonda and Anne Bancroft. "We all cringed as she got older," laughs Anne. "We had the word *adultism*, you couldn't trap her." Her even legal blindness slowed Rita down. She hopped cans and emerged without a walking cane, which she'd found to be fear of causing disorientation.

"It's quite unusual to have an adult disease," says Lucy Goldfarb, Rita's agent. "What was amazing about her was that she had this extraordinary energy." At an agency party in the late 1990s, Rita surprised everyone when she came with her walker. "She could hardly move, but she said she couldn't miss out," Goldfarb recalls. A few years ago, Rita reluctantly phoned him to say she was retiring. Her last roles were in *The Moon* of Stephan Aphryd and *Where the Money Is* with Paul Newman in 2000, and a *Boyle's* commercial in June 2001. She never drank beer.

Rita overcame bladder cancer in 1993. She moved in with Bruce in 1994, and lived with him until last August, when her son fell ill. Rita was in a nursing home. Anne says her last November, "to all of us, she knew Richard Monroe was retiring," she says. Rita was good at reminiscing. "To keep her mind sharp, she memorized sections of Shakespeare and Keplinger. 'The one thing she wanted about was being forgotten,'" Anne says.

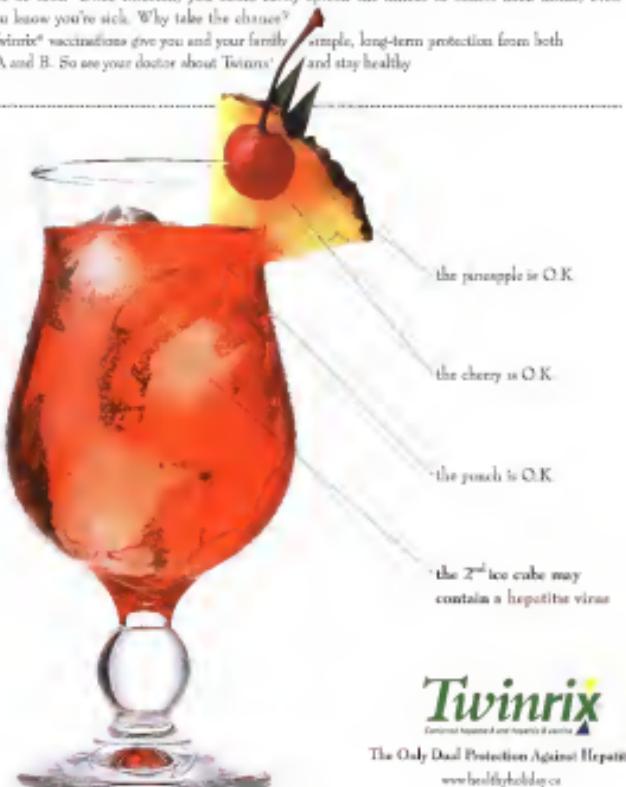
On Dec. 27, 2005, Rita Tuckett, 96, died of old age at William Osler Hospital in Etobicoke. Memorials will be held this spring and fall in Stratford and the Sea.

BY GRETCHEN GRANT

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